



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Are We Filled To the Brim With Coffee Emporiums?

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Pick a day, any day, and walk along 24th Street in Noe Valley. Chances are you'll encounter what writer Jim Forbes calls "a coffee block party."

"Noe Valley is the most coffee-addicted neighborhood in San Francisco," says Forbes, who spent a year and a half preparing his book, *Cafe San Francisco: A Guide to the City's Coffeehouse Culture*, published this spring.

The guidebook, which devotes an entire chapter to Noe Valley, points out that neighborhood residents, young and old, make regular treks to the 24th Street commercial strip to buy a steaming cup of "Joe."

For some, the ritual is a nanosecond pit stop on the way to work. For others who have time to spare, it's a break from their daily routine—a chance to savor a little French Roast as they sit on the sidewalk or a bench and chat with neighbors, read the paper, or just hang out with their kids.

"Having all these coffee places is really a nice thing," says Marjory Panetti, owner of Panetti's gift shop on 24th Street. "They give neighbors a place to congregate and a sense of community. And I love a good cup of coffee."

"I'm amazed at the boom," adds Conor Howard, a Phoenix Books employee who frequents all the coffee outlets along 24th Street. "Caffeine is the drug of choice in the '90s, and the expansion is a reflection of that."

Expansion? Try proliferation. The neigh-



Little Noelle sticks to steamed milk, but daddy Bob Daley, shown here at Spinelli's, is one of many Noe Valleyans who have made a ritual out of consuming the stimulating brew of the coffee bean. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

borhood is overflowing with coffee spots—from old standbys like Happy Donuts, the Meat Market Coffeehouse, and Star Bakery, to relative newcomers (1980s

vintage) like Spinelli's, the Courtyard Cafe, S.F. Coffee Co., the Chef, and

Continued on Page 5

Dan's Gas and Neighbors Mired in Underground Oil Leak

By Loren J. Bialik

Vicksburg Street resident Roberta McGowan reports that her two daughters, Maura, 9, and Emily, 7, were hospitalized at S.F. General for four days this spring, suffering from a mysterious malady the doctors called "reactive airway disease."

Karen Kaufman, who also lives on Vicksburg, says she's had three bad respiratory infections, each within two days of being in her own back yard.

Jean Roby, a Jersey Street neighbor, says she's "coughing all the time."

All three residents live on property that abuts Dan's Gas Station, which was the site of an oil leak that contaminated the soil (see October 1992 *Voice*).

Could the cause of these illnesses be toxins from the gas station? Three years since the leak first surfaced, it's still too early to answer that question.

'Black Stuff' Started Seeping in 1990

What we do know is that around May 1990 an oil leak was discovered by Maureen Mahoney, who at the time resided behind the station, located at 3865 24th St.

According to Wayne Rosemont, proprietor of Dan's Gas, Mahoney informed him: "You have black stuff coming out of your wall." The black stuff turned out to be waste oil leaking from a tank underneath the station. Waste oil is that grimy

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Armistead Maupin Takes A Peek at Tales of the City Filming

By Denise Minor

Yes, those were hip-hugging bell bottoms you saw at 24th and Sanchez streets in mid-June—and sideburns, platform vinyl shoes, leather fringe jackets, and a crocheted avocado-green and harvest-gold poncho.

But no, the people sporting the threads were not just retro-'70s fashion plates. They were "extras" playing a bit part in the filming of the British television miniseries *Tales of the City*, an operation that took over half a block of Noe Valley for a day.

Even author Armistead Maupin, whose 1979 novel the series is based upon, was a bit taken aback by the scene created in his neighborhood June 14.

"It felt odd taking my usual trajectory



Extras in 1970s' garb gathered at 24th and Sanchez streets last month for the filming of a British TV adaptation of Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

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The late Dora Lossman raised a family on Jersey Street and was active in the community through seven decades.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOSSMAN FAMILY

Dora Lossman, Noe Valley Pioneer

Editor's Note: Fred Lossman, of Nevada City, Calif., sent us this lovely tribute to his mother, a longtime Noe Valley resident who died June 3.

In addition to three sons, Dora Lossman is survived by six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Our mom, Dora Marie Lossman, was born on Aug. 24, 1898, in Colmar, Alsace-Lorraine, then part of Germany. She died peacefully in her sleep on June 3, 1993, a few months before her 95th birthday.

She arrived in New York City from Germany in 1922, took a train to San Francisco, and joined our dad, Morris Lossman. They purchased a home on Jersey Street in Noe Valley, and she remained at the same address until her death—a period of 71 years.

She really was amazing. She raised three sons during the Depression. She helped our dad for many years with his jewelry business on Mission Street. She was a tireless volunteer at Lebanon Presbyterian Church, a den mother, active in the PTA, and sent hundreds of CARE packages to Europe during World War II.

She spoke German, Alsatian, French, and English fluently. She was a gourmet cook and an expert seamstress. She loved art and classical music and traveled extensively.

She had a delightful, teasing sense of humor, and was completely unselfish. We don't remember her ever losing her temper or speaking in anger, despite the usual (and sometimes unusual) tense family trials and tribulations. She was a peacemaker.

She was blond, blue-eyed, and her complexion was clear and beautiful until the end.

We were and are very fortunate. To us, she was a saint.

—Fred Lossman for her sons,
Ted, Bob, and Fred Lossman

LETTERS 29¢

Should Panhandlers Be School Advisers?

Editor:

Regarding "Police Beat" in the June 1993 issue: Is it "good news" that a street person plans to "meet with the principal of James Lick Middle School to discuss taking action to create positive involvement with the students"? To what end?

Surely there are better role models in Noe Valley for students than someone who stands by the ATM all day, barking a sales pitch for the *Street Sheet*. And shouldn't mister or madam principal stick to their duties pertaining to reading, science, and mathematics, rather than pandering to the ego of this "Street Sheet saleswoman"?

Wendy Rivero
Grand View Avenue



How to Get in Touch with RAAGE

Editor:

In your June issue, the letter from RAAGE, a neighborhood group working to eliminate racism in our community, stated that the group's meeting times were the first and third Tuesday of the month. This was in error.

In fact, we meet on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to come, call us at 285-5322, and we'll let you know the meeting place.

Members of RAAGE
(Race Awareness Arbitration
Group Education)

Editor:

Toni Gill, the unfortunate victim of a racist tirade (which she described in her letter in the June issue), might accept a soothing word from another Noe Valley resident.

The woman yelling from her rooftop

appeared to be unbalanced, a raving nut. However humiliated Ms. Gill felt, she was able to leave the scene. The nearby residents watching from behind their curtains must deal with that loud-mouthed lunatic daily. But when all was said and done, no one was bloodied, no ambulance required.

Imagine if you walked down 24th Street and watched a ragged, deranged street person scream similarly at another person. You might call the CPOP bicycle officer, but I suspect you'd restrain yourself from personally jumping into the fray, recognizing that the attacker might need psychiatric help, might also have a knife, and might stop the ravings before drawing blood.

Disgust at an unhinged neighbor's actions is not grounds to openly challenge the neighbor and invite him or her to focus that insanity on your home and family. I hope Ms. Gill's complaint to the Hate Crimes Unit brings results.

Name withheld by request
(I don't want her focusing on me either)
P.S. More power to RAAGE.

Noe Library Getting Short Shrift

Editor:

I must voice my opposition to the proposed closings/cuts of local libraries (*Voice* May 1993). My husband and I have just paid the first installment on our annual \$4,757.32 property tax bill. Believe me, it hurts to pay this amount and to feel that we are being shortchanged when it comes to city services.

Our two preschool-age children will not be using the public school system because the continual budget cuts imposed upon that system have left us with an environment that cannot ensure quality learning.

In this time of growing illiteracy, I find



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it unthinkable that the libraries have become the target of budget cuts.

The Noe Valley Library is a city service that softens the sting of our hefty property taxes. We love this library, and as a taxpaying family we implore Mayor Jordan to please reconsider the proposed cuts and closings.

Darla Radcliffe and Family
Noe Street

Somebody's Got to Do It

FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS, we've been struggling to get through all the story ideas on our list, but there always seems to be a new batch of hot topics, and never enough people to write about them. What's an editor to do?

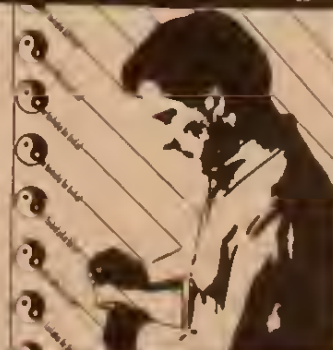
Call for help. Have you always wanted to write a piece about an eccentric character or neighborhood landmark? Or publish your scathing observations about the Naked Valley? Or test out that poem or children's story in newsprint? Air your grievances about city government?

We'd love to receive your stories, statements, testimonials, and editorials, and we'll even give you a small monetary award if we publish them in the *Voice*. But first you have to mail us your submission (sorry, no fax machine yet), which should be typed, double-spaced, fewer than 1,000 words, and preferably pertinent to Noe Valley. Please include your name, address, and phone, and remember, we may edit for clarity, brevity, or legality. (We'll run it by you first, though.)

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, and the deadline is generally the 15th of the month.

Hope to hear from you soon. —Ed.

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

Plan to House Homeless In Church Gets Mixed Reception

By Stephanie Levin-Gervasi

Sometimes an issue binds a community together. Other times, it finds friends and neighbors sitting on opposite doorsteps.

The latter is the case with an issue now brewing in upper Noe Valley—a proposal by several members of a local church to provide shelter for homeless families.

On May 28, members of the Holiness Temple in Christ, Inc., a Pentecostal church that has sat quietly at 28th and Church streets for more than 30 years, held a community meeting to discuss a plan to invite five needy women and their children to stay in the church on a temporary basis.

The Friday night meeting, attended by nearly 70 residents, lasted two hours and was lively and contentious. It was presided over by Assistant Pastor Joe Bell, who works for the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center on McAllister Street, and Greg Winters, a self-described "full-time volunteer" for the church, which has a congregation of 20. Pastor Roscoe McIntosh was not present.

Winters, who said he was coordinating the logistics of the project, initiated the discussion by describing the current state of homelessness in San Francisco and the difficulty of single-wage earners to acquire affordable housing.

Residents countered that they understood the plight of the homeless, but they wanted to hear specifics: what did the church plan to do, and when and how?

Winters and Bell responded that the plan was to refurbish the building at 1596 Church St. (which housed a movie theater in the '40s), not only for use as a church sanctuary and meeting place, but as a living space for homeless families. A volunteer staff would be responsible for helping the families reconstruct their lives.

Bell added that he wanted to establish a secure, nurturing environment for homeless women and their children, until such time as they could get back on their feet.

He emphasized that the project was not a permanent shelter, but rather a transitional facility. He said that at the present time the church had no plans to ask the city to finance the renovation, and that he had a "very rich Father," referring to his faith in divine providence.

Nevertheless, he was met with a barrage of questions. ("Frankly," Bell said later, "I was surprised at the negative



Joe Bell of the Holiness Temple in Christ on Church Street addressed a community meeting in May about his plan to establish a shelter for five needy families. PHOTOS BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM

reaction from the community. It was like a textbook response—Not In My Back Yard.")

Although saying they were sympathetic to humanitarian needs, many residents argued that the corner of Church and 28th was not the place to house families in transition.

"I didn't buy in Noe Valley, and pay the kind of taxes I'm paying, to live next to a homeless shelter," said Linda Hayes, a resident of 28th Street.

Other residents pointed out that the blocks surrounding the church were populated heavily by families with small children, and that their children's safety was of primary concern. How did the church intend to resolve domestic difficulties, or health and childcare problems? And were the needy families members of the church?

"No," replied Bell, "they are not church members, but would come through an agency referral system."

At one point the discussion became so heated that Andy Forrest, a longtime Noe Valley resident and construction consultant, stood up and tried to assuage tempers by assessing the situation from a civil engineer's point of view.

"The permit and planning process of upgrading a building is long and deliberate," Forrest reminded the audience. "It is not something that happens overnight."

But several residents said that the homeless had become such a hot political button, the typical zoning and building codes might be waived. Others complained that the plan had not yet been clearly laid on the table, and that the

community was getting only bits and pieces of the project.

One resident said that it looked as if this was a social service venture, not a religious one. Asked about this point in a later interview, Winters admitted that, in fact, the mayor's housing office had suggested the idea for the shelter.

Though most of those at the meeting were skeptical, there were a few voices advocating acceptance of the plan.

Nina Youkelson, who lives less than a block from the church, said she felt that the community had been given an opportunity to do something for others and should therefore embrace that opportunity.

One longtime resident summed up the sentiments of many by saying that the streets of Noe Valley had always been relatively safe. But lately, an apparent increase in crime and muggings had made her nervous and fearful. She said that a project such as the church was proposing would require many more neighborhood meetings and discussions.

And that's a distinct possibility.

In late June, a check with the Planning Department revealed that the church—which is zoned NC1 (non-residential commercial)—currently had no permit application on file with the city.

Harry Ja Wong, an architect with Asian Neighborhood Design (AND), said that Winters had contacted his organization to do a feasibility study. He noted, however, that Asian Neighborhood Design was still waiting for the go-ahead from the church.

Following the meeting, Bell said that the church hoped to begin remodeling in

September and finish by October. He also said that Habitat for Humanity, a group specializing in low-income housing, would be donating construction and manpower.

But even though Bell gave the impression that the project was a *fait accompli*, Winters later said that its status was in question.

"The purpose of the meeting with residents," Winters said, "was to integrate the community in the planning process."

Unfortunately, the planners neglected to fully integrate the church hierarchy. Pastor McIntosh, reached in late June, said the meeting about the proposed shelter "was something Bell did on his own. I didn't know anything about it until we found some literature on the door of the church," he said.

McIntosh stated emphatically that "nothing can happen without Board of Trustees approval. Bell should realize that he can't own the church by himself."

He added that the board had met twice in June and would post its written decision on the matter on Sunday, June 27. (Those who'd like further information should write the church care of M. E. Durham, P.O. Box 424815, San Francisco, CA 94142.)

Meanwhile, neighborhood residents are invited to learn more by attending the next meeting of Upper Noe Neighbors, on July 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez. The homeless shelter will be on the agenda, and Joe Bell is scheduled to speak. □



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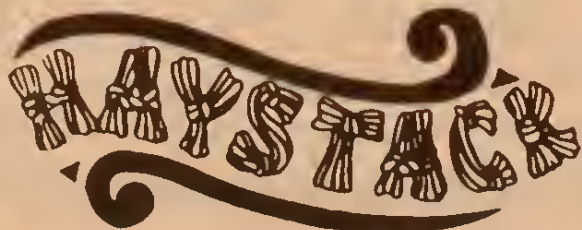
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James Leonard (with book) and nanny Mandy Boyle, with her charge, take a coffee break on the bench in front of Spinelli's. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

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The S.F. Coffee Co., on 24th near Sanchez, is one of a growing number of neighborhood establishments that sell snacks along with their exotic coffee drinks. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Does Our Coffee Cup Runneth Over?

Continued from Page 1

What's For Dessert.

Cafe Sanchez and the Diamond Corner Cafe joined the coffee achievers in the past year. And as the *Voice* went to press, Starbucks, a national chain based in Seattle, was set to open a coffee store (with seating space) at the corner of 24th and Noe.

In May, The Pantry, a longtime 24th Street coffee bean and kitchenware vendor, threw in the towel, remodeled, and reopened as an "espresso bar."

Come September, S.F. Coffee, which does a booming business on 24th near Vicksburg, will open a sister store, just blocks away at the corner of Church and Duncan.

The Guerrero family, which owns S.F. Coffee, has purchased the building that will house the new store, and according to Martha Guerrero Monroy, manager of the 24th Street shop, her brother Jaime will run the new operation and live with his wife in the flat above the store.

"Since we own the building, it's okay if business is slow at first," Monroy says. "I think business will build, though, because there is more and more activity along Church Street almost every day. In addition, if there's a line out the door at the 24th Street store, customers will have the option of walking to the store on Church."

Yet, in a neighborhood where you can buy coffee every other storefront—the four-block stretch of 24th Street between Church and Diamond has at least 17 places waiting to serve java-lovers—you can't help but wonder how much is too much.

"You can never have too much coffee," says Victor Silveira, as he sips a cup of Spinelli's house brew.

Adds Forbes, "Because coffee is very

habit-forming, I believe that unless some medical research comes out and says caffeine can really harm us, the coffee culture will continue strong.

"Coffeehouses are to the '90s what movie theaters were to the '30s," he continues. "They're places to hide from economic disparities and escape from your problems. They're a cheap form of entertainment, and most of us don't have a lot of extra money to spend these days."

Still, in Noe Valley many people are starting to get the jitters.

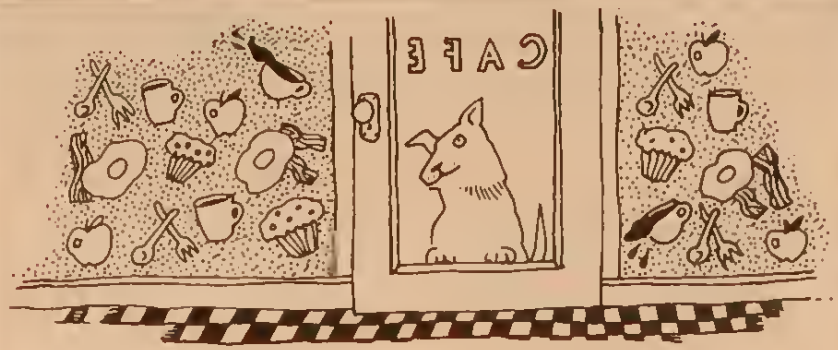
"I just think it's really weird that there are so many coffee places opening up in Noe Valley," says Elyse Shafarman, a Guerrero Street resident. "No matter what, I always go to S.F. Coffee because it's closest to my house and because their coffee is hotter than the other places'."

And while shop owner Marjory Panetti appreciates "the congenial feeling the coffeehouses give the neighborhood," she maintains that "there are a lot of other stores Noe Valley could use that we don't have. A bath shop and a closet shop would be good things to have on the street in lieu of another coffee shop."

Marcy Boltz, assistant manager of Spinelli Coffee Company on 24th Street, concurs. "The most common comment I've been hearing from customers is that Noe Valley needs another coffeehouse about as badly as it needs another nail salon. I think there should be a capitalistic courtesy among cafe owners. This is a big city and there are lots of neighborhoods that are in need of coffee shops—and Noe Valley isn't one of them."

"It's crazy. It's madness," says Mervyn Mark, owner of What's For Dessert on Church Street. "Something is going to have to give, especially on 24th Street. Eventually, some of the smaller places are going to fold, in my opinion."

Yet, talk with Boltz, Mark, and other coffee store proprietors and none will admit to being concerned about their particular store's survival. All cite their loyal, supportive customers and personalized service as reasons their business will make it.



Observations of a Cafe Dog

By Alice Rogoff

Each day, Joanie and I go to the cafe—Joanie in her beret, jacket, and backpack full of papers for her research on psychological testing. I am happy to accompany her. My tail involuntarily begins to wag. We go down Church Street, past the flowers on Comerford Alley (a street that's not allowed to be a street), and across 27th Street to Cafe Sanchez.

Joanie says, "Stay, Sullivan." For a few minutes she will leave me outside by myself while she gets her latte. As a dog, I can't go in the cafe—Board of Health stipulations. I have to contend with that.

I used to press my nose to the glass and watch everyone inside at their tables, while waiting anxiously for Joanie to come through the door. But now I have adjusted to the situation. I sit on my haunches, waiting patiently, knowing that she will return soon, as long as she doesn't say hello to too many people.

Today she is waving to a lady in blue across a table. But it's okay. Because there are the smells—of muffins, coffee cakes, and toasted bagels—floating past my sniffing nose. I lie down on the sidewalk. Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. The morning crowd is gathering. Some I know because they go to the cafe every day. Others are from out of town. Many find cafe sidewalk dogs to be charming and delightful.

It is really not so bad. I can cope. And as usual, a couple walks down the sidewalk, stops, and pets my ears. Then there is a serious discussion, led by a tall woman, about my personality: all the nice qualities of golden retrievers, our historical proclivities.

A little boy with his mother pauses and points and says, "Dog." He is curious but doesn't come too close. A girl around 4 years old says, "Doggie, doggie," and finally, "Can I pet the doggie?"

Joanie comes through the door and settles into a large yellow chair. She watches Emily pet my nose. I know that Joanie is mentally making notes on child behavior, as it relates to dogs.

I lie down at Joanie's feet and survey everyone coming in and out the door, with their escorts and friends. I take note of all these social interactions.

But there is not only the people society, there is the dog society: Jess, Wyoming, and Happy. One day a shepherd, the next day a chihuahua and a corgi. On Sunday, there was a big sheep dog.

Tail-wagging, sidewalk-rolling, barking, lap-sitting—I never know what might happen at the cafe. □

"We have a very loyal clientele," says Mark, greeting people by name as they walk to the counter and order their lattes and muffins.

"These people are more than customers to me. They are personal friends. Our service and our high-quality coffee will keep people coming back here."

Adds Boltz, "We are not intimidated by the competition. However, because Starbucks will be directly across the street from us, we realize it will have some effect on our business. The flow of business will probably change for a while as customers compare us with them. But we believe our service and coffee are better, and that customers will come back and be with us for the long term."

Meanwhile, nearby at Bakers of Paris, Manager Molly Manewal is currently developing a new promotional campaign for the store, focusing on coffee.

"We're trying to find different ways to focus the business and to add to the wide line of breads and pastries we already carry," she says. "People just aren't aware that we serve espresso and other coffees along with baked goods, so they'll come in with cups from Spinelli and S.F. Coffee and then order their pastry from us."

We'd like them to know that they can get everything from us all at once."

Other shops, including Cafe Sanchez, the Diamond Corner Cafe, and the Meat Market Coffeehouse, distinguish themselves by offering full meals in addition to coffee and snack fare.

"We have a unique style, so I think people will come here no matter what," says Dia Elkhuri, who has owned the Meat Market since last year.

"We have a place to sit and a grill, while Starbucks, S.F. Coffee, and Spinelli don't. People can relax and read while they eat. I also believe that people will support the Meat Market because they want to keep it alive. It's been around since 1971, and it's places like the Meat Market that made Noe Valley what it is."

Perhaps Conor Howard sums up the state of coffee affairs in Noe Valley best:

"We have an embarrassment of riches in this neighborhood, but it's nice to have so many choices. I just hope that some of the smaller coffee stores don't get lost in the shuffle." □



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New Tests for Contamination From Oil Leak To Start in July

Continued from Page 1

ooze which drips out of your crankcase when you get your car's oil changed.

In March 1991, at the behest of Dan's Gas, a crew from the San Jose-based engineering firm Gen-Tech Environmental removed the waste-oil tank and started testing the soil and ground water for contaminants. Their tests included the soil in the McGowans' back yard.

Though they found no "volatile organic compounds" like benzene in the soil, Gen-Tech President Stuart Solomon says, the tests did reveal that "the ground water contained multiple VOCs," possibly leaking from underground gasoline storage tanks.

"The benzene content in the ground water is definitely beyond the San Francisco standard," Solomon points out.

Also found were xylene, toluene, and ethylbenzene, which together with benzene "are the four constituents besides petroleum that make up gasoline," Solomon says.

Steve Coffel, author of *But Not a Drop to Drink*, warns that "cancer, birth defects, nervous system damage, and a host of other chronic effects can be caused by gasoline components." And Solomon says that gasoline vapors can invade the ground water and seep into your basement. "If [gasoline] did come into contact with the concrete, it could perhaps be dangerous," he says.

Are McGowan, Kaufman, and Roby living on a potential Love Canal? Only time, and hopefully more extensive tests, will tell.

New Tests To Be Done This Summer

According to records at the Department of Public Health, the next series of tests are set to commence in July. But Blymyer Engineers, Inc., of Alameda will be conducting the tests rather than Gen-Tech.

Craig Drizin, a Blymyer environmental engineer, wouldn't say what the cost might be, but Solomon of Gen-Tech thought it might range anywhere from "\$50,000 to \$75,000 for the next round of testing." His firm had bid on the project.

Station owner Rosemont and John McCarthy, one of the owners of the land on which Dan's Gas sits, "have already spent better than \$100,000," according to McCarthy, on removing the underground oil storage tank, testing for contamination, and treating the soil. "It's depressing to spend that kind of money and not know too much one way or the other," he says.

Though McCarthy's family has owned the property since 1930 (McCarthy thinks the old Vicksburg Theater once occupied the lot), he would love to sell it to Rosemont.

And Rosemont says he "would love to buy the property, but who knows what's under the ground? If it's clean, I think it's worth \$1.2 million," he notes. But if it's contaminated, it's worth zilch, "because nobody wants to clean it up."

Rosemont estimates that it could cost "from \$200,000 to a million dollars to clean it up, depending on what's wrong and what has to be done."

"On top of that," he adds, "it's tough to get a loan on contaminated property." So Rosemont is crossing his fingers and waiting to see the results of the new soil and ground water tests.

If Rosemont doesn't purchase the property, Noe Valley may lose its only gas station. "Owners/operators can keep it a service station, but if the owners sell it to a private person who doesn't have anything to do with service stations, because of how it's zoned, the gas station has to come down," Rosemont says.

Another scenario would be for Rosemont or the owners of the property to

remove the two 8,000-gallon and two 4,000-gallon gasoline storage tanks currently at the site. According to a report by Blymyer Engineering, the soil and ground water contamination was "likely related to existing underground storage tanks [USTs] and a removed waste oil UST." But if Dan's Gas can't sell fuel, Rosemont says, he'll lose 30 percent of his business.

No Happy Campers Here

Like McGowan, Kaufman, and Roby, Rosemont feels that he is a victim of circumstances. That's because the tanks may have been leaking for years before he purchased the station in 1986.

The prior occupant was Shell Oil, which leased the property from 1960 to 1980.

"Back then," Rosemont says, "when they changed the tanks, the [anti-pollution] laws were a lot different. All they had to do was take them out and put them in and see you later."

During the process of pulling the waste oil tank, Rosemont says he "talked to the owner of the hardware store [Tuggey's]. He said, 'Well, Dan [the previous owner of the station] was telling me that it was leaking years before you got here.'" But Rosemont notes that it's hard to prove Shell Oil's culpability based on word of mouth.

During his investigation, Solomon from Gen-Tech heard a rumor that "there was a catastrophic leak caused by a fueling truck which apparently overfilled the tank" sometime in the 1970s. He also heard that the incident caused gasoline to spill into 24th Street. But after searching Fire Department records, Solomon was unable to uncover a report of such an accident.

Gas Station Is One of 150

Unfortunately for all parties, Dan's Gas Station is not the only business in San Francisco creating environmental woes.

According to Cherie D'Andrea, manager of the Health Department's toxics cleanup division, there are over 150 sites with waste disposal or contamination problems in the city. And since she has only one other person in her office, "we don't have time to babysit sites," she says.

Also because of the staff shortage, much of the cleanup is "self-directed," she adds.

"A lot of people are trying to sell their property," D'Andrea notes, but it's a futile effort, "since the banks won't close escrow on these sites and the Building Department won't let them build anything new, until they have a sign-off from the Health Department that they've been cleaned up."

Meanwhile, neighbors like the McGowans, Kaufmans, and Robys are waiting, as Roberta McGowan puts it, "for somebody to do something."

The public can view the Health Department's file on Dan's Gas, including reports by the engineering firms and city inspectors, by sending a written request to the Department of Public Health, Local Oversight Program, Toxics, Health & Safety Services, 101 Grove St., Room 220, San Francisco, CA 94102, Attn: Les Lum. (The request can also be faxed to 554-2772.)

There is an \$8.50 charge for pulling the file, and a charge of 45 cents per copy. Call 554-2739 for further information. □

All Aboard—J-Church Line Now Bound for Balboa Park

By Larry Beresford

Now when you hop on an outbound J in Noe Valley, you can travel to the exotic regions of Balboa Park, two miles south and west of our tiny metropolis.

That's because expanded (and regular) J-Church streetcar service from Noe Valley to the Balboa Park BART Station was started in mid-June. A small group of Muni staff and neighborhood residents took the inaugural ride on Saturday morning, June 19.

This long-awaited extension of the J-line, from its previous terminus at 30th and Church streets, follows tracks laid in 1991. The "Balboa Park" trains will now transport riders east on 30th to San Jose Avenue, and then southwest on San Jose to Balboa Park (near the back door of City College), with six new stops along the way, at Dolores Street, Randall Street, Glen Park BART, and Santa Rosa, Santa Ynez, and Ocean avenues.

Streetcar passengers can then transfer underground to a BART train, or above ground to Muni's K-Ingleside or M-Ocean View lines, but they should be prepared to wait for 5 to 10 minutes at Balboa Park before making the connection.

Loyal *Voice* readers will recall that Muni originally proposed to send the J cars directly to Stonestown and San Francisco State University. But this past year, opposition from Lakeside District residents and the 19th Avenue Safety and Preservation Committee led to a scaling-down of the necessary track construction along 19th Avenue.

However, that scaled-down construction project—which also began on June 19—freed up several of Muni's scarce LRVs (the orange and white light-rail vehicles), thus permitting the J-line extension, at least as far as Balboa Park.

J trains from Balboa Park to downtown will now run weekdays starting at 4:42 a.m. The last outbound train will leave Embarcadero Station at 12:32 a.m.

According to Muni, the weekday frequency of the new service will be every 5 minutes during the 7 to 9 a.m. morning rush, every 10 minutes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and every 12 minutes from 4 p.m. through the evening. (Patrons should note, however, that during the evening commute, from 4 to 6 p.m., outbound trains will run every 6 minutes from the Embarcadero to 30th Street.)

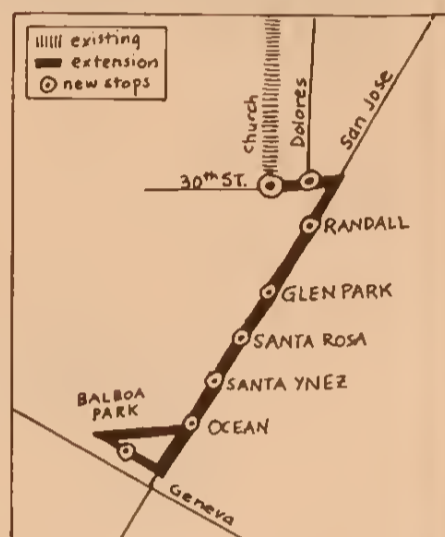
On Saturdays, the time between cars will range from 12 to 20 minutes. On Sundays the frequency will be every 20 minutes.

Muni General Manager Johnny Stein said that the reason the J-line would receive the extra LRVs was that during this summer's phase-one construction along 19th Avenue, some M-line streetcars would be replaced by shuttle buses.

Stein promised that the J-line extension would continue even after construction work ceased this fall, however. He added that when phase-two construction on 19th Avenue is completed in late 1994, it should be possible to run continuous streetcar loops and thus finally realize the long-promised direct service from Noe Valley to Stonestown.

On the inaugural ride of the J-line extension, Muni engineer Jim Nelson was asked whether this was a day for celebration. "I guess so," he replied, perhaps

EXTENDED SERVICE



expressing some lingering frustration on the part of Muni staff, over the need to cut back their original plans in order to placate 19th Avenue homeowners.

But fellow rider David Hooper, a 43-year-old Mission District native who lives alongside Balboa Park, was ecstatic.

"Now I can get off the J and shop at 30th Street Produce or Drewes Market or Speckmann's German deli or Real Foods or Carroll's bookstore or Star Bakery," before continuing on home on the J, he said.

"We just don't have the same caliber of merchants out there. To be able to tie this neighborhood to ours is really sweet."

At the same time, Hooper added, Noeopolitans might find it worthwhile to discover the city swimming pool, ball parks, tennis courts, and other underused amenities of Balboa Park. □

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Menu

— Entrees

All entrees are served with Sautéed Vegetables and your choice of Pasta or French Fries. Pasta entrees excluded.

POULTRY

All chicken dishes below are prepared with a whole skinless breast of chicken

Chicken Marsala (mushrooms, Marsala wine, dash butter).....\$9.95

Chicken Dijon (Dijon mustard, cream, butter, garlic).....\$9.95

Chicken Dore (dipped in an herbed egg batter and sautéed with wine, lemon, butter, garlic).....\$9.95

Chicken Picatta (capers, wine, butter, lemon, dash garlic).....\$9.95

Chicken Parmigiana (Parmigian and mozzarella cheese, red sauce, wine and garlic).....\$10.25

Chicken Carciofi (mushrooms, artichoke hearts, cream, butter, green onions, garlic).....\$10.95

Chicken Joe's Special (diced chicken, mushrooms, spinach, egg, onions and garlic).....\$8.25

MEAT

Filet Mignon.....\$13.95

New York Strip.....\$12.95

Lamb Chops (loin cut).....\$10.95

Center Cut Pork Chops.....\$9.95

Hamburger Steak.....\$8.50

Veal Gaetano (mushrooms, capers, wine, garlic).....\$11.25

Veal Dijon (Dijon mustard, cream, butter, garlic).....\$10.95

Veal Picatta (capers, wine, butter, lemon).....\$10.95

Veal Parmigiana (Parmigian and mozzarella cheese, red sauce, wine and garlic).....\$11.25

Veal Scaloppini (mushrooms, wine, garlic and demi-glaze).....\$11.25

Breaded Veal Cutlet (wine, butter, garlic, lemon).....\$9.95

Veal Marsala (mushrooms, Marsala wine, dash butter).....\$11.25

Joe's Special (ground chuck, mushrooms, spinach, egg, onions and garlic).....\$8.50

— Seafood

Fresh Fish of the Day.....A.Q.

Prawn Dore (prawns in an herbed egg batter and sautéed with mushrooms, onions and garlic).....\$11.50

Sautéed Prawns (Tiger prawns sautéed with mushrooms, onion and garlic).....\$11.75

Sautéed Calamari (Tender calamari sautéed with mushrooms, onion and garlic).....\$10.25

Deep Fried Prawns.....\$11.50

Fish and Chips (does not include vegetables).....\$7.95

Fried Calamari Dinner.....\$8.95

Steamed Mussels.....\$8.95

Steamed Clams.....\$9.95

— Pastas

The following pasta dishes may be served with Marinara, Olive Oil & Garlic or Butter & Garlic, Alfredo, Pesto or Tomato Cream, add \$1.00.

Available Posto Choices:

Fettuccine, Rotelli, Linguine.

Tortellini or Ravioli, add \$1.00.

Pasta with sauce.....\$5.95

Italian Sausage.....\$7.95

Linguine baby clams (red or white).....\$7.95

Primavera (steamed mixed vegetables).....\$6.95

— Vegetables

Eggplant Parmigiana (Parmigian and mozzarella cheese, red sauce, wine and garlic).....\$8.50

Sautéed Vegetables or Sautéed Spinach.....\$3.25

Vegetable Frittata (Italian omelet with vegetables, eggs, garlic, herbs and olive oil).....\$5.95

— Starters

Chili Con Carne Cup \$1.85 Bowl \$2.95

Sautéed Mushrooms and Garlic Bread.....\$4.75

Buffalo Wings (spicy or BBQ).....\$4.25

Garlic Bread.....\$2.00

Onion Rings.....\$3.25

Fried Calamari.....\$4.95

Cajun Popcorn (when available).....\$5.75

Deep Fried Clam Strips.....\$3.95

French Fries.....\$2.50

Zucchini Sticks.....\$3.25

Fried Mozzarella.....\$4.75

Steamed Clams.....\$5.95

Steamed Mussels.....\$5.25

SOUP OF THE DAY

Cup.....\$1.50

Bowl.....\$2.50

— Salad

House Salad.....\$4.50

Dinner Salad.....\$2.75

Warm Chicken Salad (full skinless breast of chicken broiled and served over mixed greens).....\$6.50

Caesar Salad (tender hearts of romaine tossed with our own Caesar dressing and toasted croutons).....\$5.50

Chicken Caesar Salad.....\$7.25

Greek Salad (fresh tossed greens with imported Feta cheese, Greek olives and other goodies).....\$6.75

Shrimp and Avocado Salad (tender bay shrimp and avocado served over hearts of romaine).....\$6.95

Fresh Ahi Tuna Salad (when available) (broiled Ahi Tuna filet served over hearts of romaine with your choice of dressing) \$8.95

Choice of Dressings

Blue Cheese, Thousand Island, Ranch, Oil & Vinegar or Creamy Italian. Caesar add 25¢

— Burgers and Sandwiches

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Fresh Ground Chuck!.....\$3.95

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Fresh Ground Chuck!.....\$5.25

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Fresh Ground Chuck!.....\$7.75

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BREADS

Sour Dough Roll, Sesame Seed Bun, English Muffin, Rye, Wheat or Slice Saur Dough

CHEESES

Cheddar, American, Swiss, Blue, Feta or Mozzarella (50¢ each)

EXTRAS

Grilled onions, garlic, spinach or tangy BBQ sauces 50¢ each

Avocado, chili, bacon, sautéed mushrooms 75¢ each

Add any of the above items to any sandwich below and create your own special!

Italian Sausage Sandwich.....\$5.85

Sausage Parmigiana Sandwich.....\$6.50

Chicken Breast Sandwich.....\$5.75

Chicken Parmigiana Sandwich.....\$6.50

BBQ Beef Sandwich.....\$6.75

New York Strip Sandwich.....\$7.75

Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich.....\$6.50

Fish Filet Sandwich.....\$5.95

Broiled Eggplant Sandwich.....\$4.25

All Burgers and Sandwiches are served with your choice of Fries or Pasta

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Sex and Drugs Alive and Well In British TV's *Tales of the City*

Continued from Page 1

on the J-Church [from his home on Fair Oaks Street to 24th Street] and seeing all those lights and the camera equipment and actors, and realizing that I had been the cause of all the fuss," he said.

Maupin said a highlight of the day was watching the performance of his friend, actor Don Novello, who used to play the notorious Father Guido Sarducci on the television show *Saturday Night Live*.

"I asked Don four or five days before shooting if he'd participate, and he agreed," said Maupin. "I believe they just have a quick shot of him with a nun collecting money, and he pockets a dollar bill."

Standing unnoticed among the onlookers and listening to their comments was also a pleasure. "As far as the bystanders go, I was very proud of Noe Valley," said Maupin. "They were far more patient and courteous than elsewhere we've been. And there were a number of filmmakers on the periphery commenting quite knowledgeably about the goings-on."

Noe Valley was chosen as one of the main outdoor locations for *Tales*, because "producers felt it would be easier to create a '70s look there than almost anywhere else in the city," said Maupin.

They used The Pantry, The French Tulip, Rabat Shoes, the Courtyard Cafe, Joshua Simon, La Casona, and the alley leading back to the Noe Valley Mall, as backdrops for the action.

Most merchants seemed fairly content to have a film crew camped out on their doorstep for a day.

"I'm grateful they have chosen this area," said Courtyard Cafe owner Davood Mozafari. "It's good publicity for Noe Valley and 24th Street."

Liz Klein, who owns Joshua Simon, held different sentiments, however. "I think it is outrageous that the city gave them parking permits to take up all these spaces out front here, without even talking to any of us," she said.

Location manager Ellen Winchell apologized for any inconvenience caused by the filming. She said the producers had paid some shops beforehand for the use



La Casona on 24th Street became the "Russian Hill Bistro" for a day, as the neighborhood helped bring to life *Tales of the City* on June 14.
PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

of their building facades, and had hoped that the compensation would be enough to offset any lost business.

"*Tales of the City*" originally ran as a *San Francisco Chronicle* daily column that followed the intertwining lives of numerous fictional characters. In 1979 the columns were published in book form, and ever since, various filmmakers and producers have teased Maupin with the prospect of doing a movie version.

However, the casual sex, drug use, and gay lifestyle of some of the book's characters eventually scared away potential backers. At least that was the case until this past year, when Maupin received a call from London's prestigious Channel 4. The network wanted to recreate *Tales of the City*—sex, drugs, and all.

Alastair Reid directs the series, and Richard Kramer of *Thirtysomething* fame wrote the screenplay. The best-known actor in the show is Olympia Dukakis, who plays the flamboyant landlady of 28 Barbary Lane.

"I owe a great deal to the Brits," said Maupin. "It was a long and rugged journey [to find a home on the silver screen for *Tales*]. I had all but given up hope."

Tales of the City, the book, has been a

big hit in Great Britain for years. "I have a lot of fans in England. It's a smaller place, and per capita a lot more people read. They pass books on to one another," said Maupin.

"The Brits are fascinated with California in general, and San Francisco in particular," he said. "They have respect for our culture, and they find us wickedly fascinating. We are like the forbidden fruit to them."

In October, Maupin will fly to London to help promote the mini-series, which is scheduled to air once a week for six weeks beginning in November. He recently learned that PBS here in the United States has decided to run *Tales* three nights in a row in two-hour segments some time in January.

A key issue for Maupin in allowing the PBS broadcast was that "we would not film two versions," he said. The U.S. producers had to leave the British production intact—with its depiction of a gay bathhouse, pot smoking, etc.

"Leaving the grass [marijuana] out of *Tales of the City* would be like leaving the speak-easies out of tales of the 1920s," he said.

Besides, the novel is not a degenerate

tale. "It is basically a warm, fuzzy, innocent story about what people do to get sex and the repercussions that sex has."

For Maupin, there have also been personal repercussions from having his novel turned into a television movie. "I've been listed in the San Francisco phone directory since 1971," he said. "But I've been getting so many calls that I had to get a private listing. It's sad."

All the hullabaloo has also forced him to put a few projects on hold—such as the new novel he has percolating in his mind. Maupin refused to even hint at the plot.

Screen rights for Maupin's most recent novel, *Maybe the Moon*, were recently sold to actress Daryl Hannah. Hannah is currently on a talent search for a woman to play the novel's protagonist, a 31-inch-tall Hollywood actress. Hannah will play the actress's roommate.

Even though he has one movie in the making and another around the corner, life has continued in the same vein for Maupin.

"I still shop at Bell Market. I still buy my flowers on 24th Street. And on some mornings, I still take the J-Church down to Holy Bagel for breakfast." □



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Stanford Conducts Free Course for Chronic Pain Sufferers at 30th St. Center

If you are 40 or older and struggling with the pain and frustration of a chronic disease, you may be able to find help in a new pain management program.

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, run by Stanford University's School of Medicine, offers techniques and strategies for coping with such long-term health problems as heart and lung disease, arthritis, and stroke complications.

The program is offered free in several Bay Area locations every three months. In Noe Valley, sessions are held at the Senior Services facility run by California Pacific Medical Center at 225 30th St. (near Church).

In small discussion groups of no more than 15 (including patients and their close relatives), participants learn how to better manage the symptoms of their illness and lessen pain and fatigue. They also receive tips on how to communicate effectively with their doctors and get the most out of the health service system. Depending on the interests of the participants, the group may explore imagery and visualization, as well as other meditative and relaxation techniques.

The sessions are chaired by two Stanford-provided leaders, who suffer from chronic disease themselves.

No medications are offered by the program, and participants must be physically able to get to the sessions on their own.

The sessions meet once a week for two hours over a seven-week period. (At 225 30th St., the group meets Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.) Because of space limitations, however, applicants may have to wait six months before they can be enrolled in the program.

According to Dr. Kate Lorig, a senior research scientist at Stanford and director of the program, many of those afflicted with chronic illness become isolated as well as angry and depressed.

A main goal of the program is to lift people out of their isolation and show them "they're not alone and that something can be done," she says.

By sharing health-related problems with others, "you can figure out how you can do things specific to your condition," Lorig says. She notes that thus far there has been "an overwhelming enthusiastic response" to the program.

According to Lorig, medical research shows that after the age of 60 the average person will have to adjust to two or more chronic illnesses. The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program was founded in part to answer the question: "How do you live with a chronic condition?"

Lorig says that people suffering from chronic illness need to know that although "you're not going to be 25 again, with a little work you can do some of the things you want to do and get enjoyment out of life."

Now in its third year, the Stanford program is funded by state tobacco taxes and by grants from the federal government.

Although no fee is required, participants are asked to fill out a questionnaire related to their condition every six months for two years after taking the class. Lorig says the questionnaire helps doctors evaluate the effectiveness of the program. She notes that the program is experimental, designed to see if "educational intervention" can make people with chronic disease feel better and give them more control over the lives.

The next session of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program begins in early October.

For more information or to enroll, contact the Stanford Patient Education Research Center at 1-800-366-2624. ☐



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Breast Cancer Patients Demand Equal Time

By Laura McHale Holland

"Everybody talks about AIDS as though it were the most serious disease in the world," says Army Street resident Nancy Evans, who was elected president of the San Francisco-based group Breast Cancer Action (BCA) in February.

"It is serious, and it is terrible, and we don't want to engage in a disease-Olympics—like my disease is more important than your disease—but breast cancer has killed a lot more people, and still kills a lot more people yearly. And we don't know what behavior will prevent it."

Inspired by the success of AIDS activists—in educating the public, challenging insurance carriers, and getting funds allocated for research—a handful of breast cancer survivors and supporters founded Breast Cancer Action in the summer of 1990.

Evans joined the group in April of 1992, a year and four months after being diagnosed with breast cancer. The previous October, she had quit her full-time job in medical editing and begun freelancing as a writer and editor.

In the past two years, she says, "we have really used the AIDS model in our activism. ACT UP and Project Inform told us how to interact with pharmaceutical companies, how to interact with surgeons, what questions to ask."

"They taught us that you have to educate yourselves. You have to go into these meetings and be able to discuss things in an informed manner, or people won't take you seriously. You have to have the numbers. You have to understand the issues and complexities. The AIDS folks have been real helpful to us."

Although BCA members certainly give each other emotional support, their primary goal is to make breast cancer research—in the areas of prevention as well as treatment—a national priority. And they want patients to be able to participate fully in decisions about their treatment.

Since Evans' entire career has been in medical publishing, she was a step ahead of most patients when it came to making decisions about her treatment.

"All the authors I worked with were doctors," she says. "I had this army of consultants. I could call them and ask any questions I wanted if I wasn't getting them answered by my own doctors. I never had that awful feeling that women have who don't know the language of medicine, and don't know the possible side effects or complications of drugs and procedures. This made it a lot easier for me to cope, as a patient."

Despite her edge, Evans, like most people, had no idea what a serious public health problem breast cancer was until she got it. But now a large part of her time—and that of the 25 to 60 people who attend BCA's monthly meetings—is devoted to disseminating accurate information about the disease.

"When I speak, I usually lead off with statistics because they're so astounding



Nancy Evans (left) and Cara Black are breast cancer survivors on a mission—to bring a sense of urgency to the fight against a disease that currently strikes 1 out of 9 women in this country. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

to most people," Evans says. She hits people at U.C. Medical Center classes, Sacramento rallies, and downtown law offices with some chilling facts, such as:

- Seventy percent of women in the U.S. who are diagnosed with breast cancer do not fall into any known risk category.

- In the 1960s, 1 in 20 women were expected to develop breast cancer during their lifetime. Now the incidence is 1 in 9, and in San Francisco it may be as high as 1 in 6.

- Approximately 46,000 American women are expected to die of breast cancer this year.

- In the last 20 years, the incidence of breast cancer has tripled for women ages 30 to 34; for women 35 to 39 it has quadrupled.

- Half of the women diagnosed with breast cancer each year die within 10 years, and this number has not changed in 50 years.

- At S.F. General Hospital, 75 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer die within a year. (Evans points out that this last figure is related to the fact that S.F. General treats mostly low-income women, who because they don't have access to regular health care are often diagnosed late in the course of their illness.)

"There are so many issues to address that it's hard to feel like you're ever really doing a good job," observes Evans.

"You have to talk about the fact that detection methods are not very good. You have to talk about the access problem for women who are uninsured or underinsured. And there's the issue of treatments not being very effective. They're still using the same drugs they used 15 years ago. That's not progress," she says.

There has, however, been some progress in breast cancer surgery. In the past, a woman's only option was radical mastectomy—where the breast, underarm tissue, a large number of lymph nodes, and the muscles underlying the chest wall are removed. It is a disfiguring operation with many complications.

Now women can choose to undergo a more conservative procedure called lumpectomy, in which only the malignancy is removed, followed by radiation. This was Evans' course of treatment.

"Doctors now feel that 70 percent of women with breast cancer would probably be good candidates for lumpectomy and radiation," she notes. "But only 30 percent of women have that surgery. [Doctors] are still lopping off breasts as though they were fingernails." Women on either coast, she adds, are more likely to be spared a full mastectomy. Women in the Midwest and the South are often not so lucky.

Evans, 55, is grateful that her lump

was discovered in a routine mammogram. But she also points out that mammograms are not the savior that many people assume they are.

"Mammograms mostly don't work for young women, because their breast tissue is dense—it photographs white on mammograms, and so do tumors. In older women, breast tissue is gradually replaced by fat, so the tumors stand out," says Evans.

"And standards for mammograms have been revised. You should wait until 40, at least, to have a baseline mammogram, and the value of mammography between 40 and 50 is questionable. It depends on how dense your breasts are. The women who benefit most from mammography are women between 50 and 64."

Rather than urging women to rely on mammograms for detection, BCA is lobbying for the development of a blood test for breast cancer detection, similar to the one already in use for detecting prostate cancer. Blood tests would be cheaper, faster, less intrusive, and far more effective for early detection than mammograms.

Breast Cancer Action also teaches its members how to assess the risks associated with various treatments. For example, the group is trying to alert women to the potentially deadly side effects of the drug Tamoxifen, which suppresses estrogen and is thought to reduce the rate of cancer recurrence in post-menopausal women.

"I have heard from many doctors that Tamoxifen is a very benign drug," says Evans. "Well, its side effects are not as dramatic as chemotherapy, but it causes liver and endometrial cancer. It can cause blood clots. When I took it, I couldn't remember things. I couldn't concentrate. I would read a page of material, and I would recognize all the words, but at the bottom of the page I couldn't remember what I'd read. So I stopped taking it."

Alvarado Street resident Cara Black is a breast cancer survivor and part-time administrative assistant in BCA's North Beach office. She was on Tamoxifen for 16 months, even though there is controversy regarding its effectiveness for premenopausal women.

"For some people Tamoxifen will help," says 41-year-old Black, "but when I was on it, I experienced depression, weight gain, and hot flashes. Then I got an irregular pap smear which scared me a lot, so I went off." She is, however, open to taking it again, if it turns out to be a reasonable preventive risk.

While working for positive gain, BCA activists are constantly dealing with loss as an immediate and integral part of their lives. The group was devastated when its co-founder, Eleanor Pred, died in 1991. Another key member, Carol Kramer,

who designed the format of BCA's bi-monthly newsletter, died in March of this year, at the age of 35.

Despite these losses and the daunting amount of work to be done, Evans, Black, and other members of BCA remain upbeat. And it helps that they have gotten funding from the Junior League, allowing them to evolve from a kitchen-table operation to one with an office of its own (at 1280 Columbus Ave., Suite 204). The Junior League also provides the group with volunteers who help with publicity, fundraising, organizing, and legislative lobbying.

BCA recently supported legislation for an income tax check-off on state returns, so taxpayers can donate money to breast cancer research. That check-off has generated \$250,000 this year.

Black answers the phone at BCA with an air of cheerful command, while her 4-year-old son, Suchan, attends preschool. In between referring people to support groups, discussing the pros and cons of Tamoxifen, or providing details on recent legislative issues, she updates the group's mailing list and computer database.

She also prepares petitions for people who are helping to collect 260,000 signatures between now and October to be sent to President Clinton. The petitions request that the breast cancer epidemic be declared a national emergency, and that Clinton spearhead a comprehensive national strategy to deal with the problem, instead of allowing piecemeal research to be done by competing companies.

Black and Evans, both now symptom-free, say their involvement with BCA has empowered rather than depleted them.

"This experience helped me wake up and smell the coffee," says Black. "But I don't think I would have made it without my son. Toddlers won't let you worry. They're always pulling something off a counter, running out the door. It keeps you grounded. I feel lucky I wasn't alone or single having to deal with this," she adds.

Most of the people involved in BCA are either cancer survivors, or family members or close friends of people who have had the disease.

"It's something that you think always happens to somebody else until it touches your life," says Evans. "That's really too bad, because if we have to wait for breast cancer to touch people's lives personally before they respond, it's going to be too late."

If you would like a BCA newsletter subscription (\$25 yearly), want to add your signature to the petition campaign, or just need more information, call Black at the BCA office, 922-8279. □

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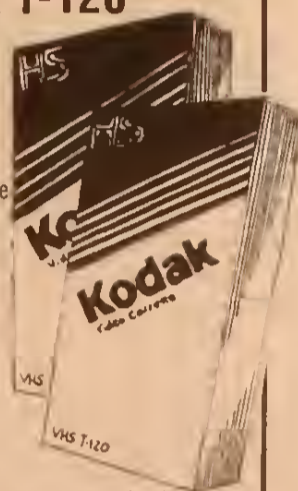
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A restoration project this summer commemorates the founding of the Alvarado Arts Program, which included the creation of this mosaic mural at Alvarado School 25 years ago. From left are Annette Clark, Leah Forbes, and Anne Marie Theilen, who were school parents at the

time the program began, Ruth Asawa and Nancy Thompson, founding artists, Chris Conry, a current parent and co-chair of the "Alvarado Revisited" project, and Alvarado Principal Sandy Leigh. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Honoring Alvarado Arts

Noe Valley residents are invited to join in "Alvarado Revisited," a project that will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Alvarado Arts Program, which flourished at Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St., from 1968 through the early 1980s.

Created by art historian Sally Woodbridge and renowned painter and sculptor Ruth Asawa, the program—offering music, drama, dance, and gardening, in addition to painting, sculpture, and mural-making—served as a model for the arts curriculum in more than 60 San Francisco public schools.

Eureka Street resident Chris Conry, coordinator of the "Alvarado Revisited" project, says that members of today's Alvarado community wish to honor the artists and volunteers of that exceptional period in order to "renew and promote the spirit of community involvement in schools, continue the Alvarado legacy, and restore awareness of the importance of art in education."

The project began in May, with the planting of a new garden. Restoration of the school's murals will start July 12. Nancy Thompson, the original artist-in-residence who helped create the murals 25 years ago, will return to head the restoration effort.

This fall, some of the original artists will come back to Alvarado to lead student workshops, and a new mural will be created to decorate the school yard. In December, a dedication ceremony and reception for Ruth Asawa, Nancy Thompson, and all former and current Alvarado

SHORT TAKES

Arts Program participants will be held.

Alumni of the Alvarado Arts Program are encouraged to become involved, along with any member of the Noe Valley community who feels artistically inspired. In addition, says Conry, "We can always use donations."

You can give her a call at 626-2431.

Meet the New Supe

Susal Leal, the newest member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, to be held on Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Leal, a longtime Noe Valley resident, was appointed on June 7 by Mayor Frank Jordan to fill the seat vacated by Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, recently confirmed as assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to Democratic Club President Rick Hauptman, "Since she's the newest supervisor, not much is known about her, except for the groups she belongs to—Latina and lesbian—and her background in business, in health care management.

"This meeting is a good opportunity for the Noe Valley community to meet and greet her, to find out what she's about and what her agenda is. We also want to

inform her about the wide variety of issues that concern us."

For more information on the upcoming meeting, contact Hauptman at 647-0549.

Take a Ride on a Tram

Trolley bells will be ringing as old-time streetcars roll through the neighborhood on Monday, July 5.

From 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Market Street Railway's vintage streetcar fleet will trundle down the J-Church tracks, starting at the Transbay Terminal downtown and traveling along Market and Church streets to 30th Street.

Among the antique vehicles will be the popular Blackpole's 1934 Boat Tram, a 1921 Melbourne Tram, a 1946 St. Louis Trolley, a 1928 Milan Tram, and a 1914 Muni streetcar.

Regular Muni fares will apply, and no reservations are necessary. For more information, call the Market Street Railway Company at 552-3055.

Summer Sidewalk Sale

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association will be blowing up balloons and rolling out the indoor-outdoor carpet on 24th Street this month, for a special sidewalk sale on Saturday, July 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to association member Mar-

jory Panetti, owner of Panetti's gift shop on 24th Street, stores along 24th, Castro, and Church streets will offer selected wares at significantly reduced prices.

"This is a chance to pick up lots of fantastic things and fabulous bargains," she says. "Most merchants are eager to clear out their merchandise to make room for their Christmas inventory, which starts to arrive in September."

The Merchants Association meets at the Bank of America branch at 24th and Castro, at 9 a.m. on the last Wednesday of the month. For membership information or the scoop on the sale, call Association President J.P. Gillen, owner of Little Italy, at 821-1515.

Mime Troupe Very Busy

What do California microchips and Japanese rice have to do with each other? The San Francisco Mime Troupe will explore this question with a blend of theater, music, and politics at parks throughout the Bay Area this summer.

Offshore, a new musical play that probes the effects of free trade on the Pacific Rim, will be the featured show in the troupe's 31st summer season, starring a multiracial cast performing a fusion of theatrical and musical styles, including Kabuki and Chinese opera.

The world premiere will be held Saturday, July 3, at Mission Dolores Park, 19th and Dolores streets. The troupe will return to the park on Saturday, Aug. 7, and on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6. In addition, *Offshore* will be staged in Glen

Continued on Page 15

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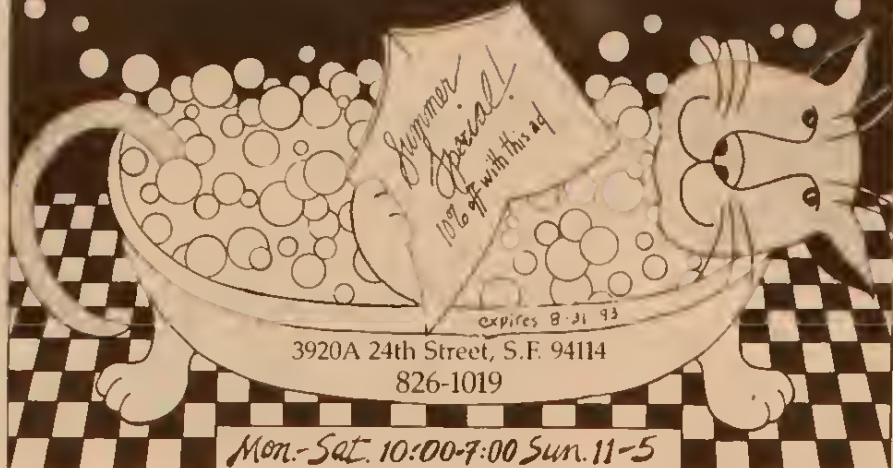
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Continued from Page 13

Park, at Elk and Chenery streets, on Saturday, July 10.

All shows are free. The music starts at 1:30 p.m., and the play begins at 2 p.m. For additional dates and locations, call the Mime Troupe at 285-1717.

Meanwhile, the Mime Troupe's Second Stage, a theater group with a special focus on youth, will present its summer show, *Knocked Up*, on three weekends, July 10-11, July 24-25, and July 31 and Aug. 1. All performances will take place at 2 p.m. at Teatro Mision, located within the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St.

Knocked Up uses traditional commedia dell'Arte staging, costumes, and masks, plus some hilarious predicaments, to confront a contemporary social issue—a woman's right to choose when and if she wants to bear children.

In conjunction with the summer presentation, performers from the show will offer a workshop for teenagers in commedia dell'Arte techniques, on July 17 and 18 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for all events will be on sale at the door, and are \$5 for adults, and \$2 for children 17 and younger.

For further information, call Lisa Johnston, at 296-9859.

"Madwomen" Speak Out

Dialogues with Madwomen, a documentary produced and directed by Academy Award-winning filmmakers Allie Light and Irving Saraf, will premiere Friday, July 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St.

A bout with depression 30 years ago inspired Light to do the film, and she talks about her experiences on screen. "I believe you have to go to your own resources to make art," she says.

The film portrays seven women of diverse ages and backgrounds. Departing from conventional documentary filmmaking techniques, Light and Saraf have

SHORT TAKES

enriched the interviews with dramatic reenactments and visualizations of each woman's history—her emotional storms, dreams, and memories.

General admission tickets are \$10; \$50 tickets include a gala reception with the filmmakers and the women featured in the film. All proceeds will benefit the Women's Building's fundraising campaign, "A Room of Our Own."

The Women's Building, located at 3543 18th St., houses nine women's organizations, sponsors emerging women's projects, provides free information and referrals for women, in Spanish and English, and advocates for women's health.

For ticket information, call the Film Arts Foundation at 552-3456.

Kids' Photo Contest

Shutterbugs 18 or younger will have a chance to win \$50 in a photo contest sponsored by San Francisco Beautiful (SFB), a non-profit organization dedicated to creating, enhancing, and protecting civic beauty.

The contest is designed to capture the spirit of a fun outdoor place in the city, and is divided into two categories: 12 and under, and 13 to 18 years. All photos must be of an outdoor open space that has no entrance fee, is open to all children, and is within the city and county of San Francisco. In addition, photos must show one or more kids having a good time.

Pictures, either in color or black and white, should measure 8-by-10 inches, and must be identified with the name, age, and address of the photographer, and the location where the picture was taken. Each photographer may enter up to three photos. The winning photos will be exhibited in September at SFB's annual awards dinner, and at other locations around the city.

Send submissions to San Francisco Beautiful, 41 Sutter St., Suite 709, San Francisco, CA 94104. All entries must be received by Aug. 7, 1993. For more details, call SFB at 421-2608.

Love and Haight Walk

Memories of love beads, peace signs, and Janis Joplin will be revived during a "Summer of Love" walking tour led by Clipper Street resident Anna Boothe, proprietor of Fiesta Tours.

The tours will run every day in July and August, from 1 to 4 p.m. Small groups will leave from the historic Red Victorian bed and breakfast hotel, at 1665 Haight St., to visit such sites as the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, Hippie Hill in Golden Gate Park, the house where the Grateful Dead lived, and the old Straight Theater, where Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix performed.

Boothe says she is reprising a tour that she started giving back in the mid-1980s. "The tour has not been offered since 1990, and it was revived this year in recognition of a new political climate in Washington.

"We get people who have lived in San Francisco for years, and have never really looked at the Haight. Also, a lot of international tourists are interested in the area. Amazingly, if they are 55 years or younger, the first thing they want to see is not the Golden Gate Bridge, but the Haight-Ashbury."

The cost of the tour, which includes a beverage of your choice at the Red Victorian, is \$15 per person, or \$25 for those who would like to be picked up at their home or hotel. But half-price tours are available on the first Saturday of the month, and benefit tours for a "hippie museum" and free coffeehouse on Haight Street are held on the third Saturday of

the month.

Same-day reservations are accepted if made by 11 a.m. To sign up, contact Boothe at Fiesta Tours, 660 Clipper St., by calling 648-3352.

Exercise with Baby

Personal fitness trainer Anne Windsor has launched a new exercise program, "Mothers in Motion," which encourages moms and their infants or toddlers to work out together.

Beginning this September, she'll offer one-on-one training for mom and baby, as well as personalized small-group sessions in her Dolores Street home. The small-group program will meet three times a week and include low-impact aerobics, circuit training, and aerobic walking (with baby in stroller or backpack) around Noe Valley.

"There are lots of new moms like me out there who want to form groups for camaraderie and support," says Windsor, whose daughter Julianna was born in March. "And given my experience as a trainer, I thought it would be great to get a group of moms together for exercise."

Windsor adds that Mothers in Motion will also give participants some social time, during which they can talk and share experiences about motherhood.

She says that it's up to individual moms to decide how much to involve their babies in the class. "Julianna really likes it when I dance and squat with her," Windsor says, "but not all babies do. However, I'd like to have the babies involved as much as possible."

For additional information or to reserve a space, contact Anne Windsor at 821-1539.

This month's Short Takes were written by Michele Lynn and Kathy Dalle-Molle.

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Jim Hutchison Still Making Waves After 14 Years of Shear Delight

By Jeanne Alexander

The day is beginning well for Jim Hutchison as he stands beside the tree in front of his hair salon, Shear Delight, at 4155 24th St.

His 6-month-old Norwich terrier, T. C. (for terminally cute, and he is) has decided that this tree will do nicely for his morning obligation, so Hutchison doesn't have to walk him up the block and around the corner to a more distant stop.

Not that he would mind. Hutchison, 39, amiably gives his time to the things he considers important—relationships (professional and personal, pets included), camping, and work.

"I like to work. When I'm broke, I work all the time. And I'm broke most of the time," he confesses cheerily.

Underlying Hutchison's informal manner and easy smile is a confidence born of 20 years of wielding the shears. His hair care philosophy is reflected in Shear Delight's sheep-and-clock logo, carrying the motto: "We take more time and cut your hair just right."

The salon books one haircut an hour, which includes a consultation, shampoo, cut, dry, style, and a final reshaping, says Hutchison, "to make sure it's done right."

"We've had a client or two who said the haircut took too long. But for every one of them, there are 10 who say, 'You are so meticulous. The professionalism is wonderful.' And that's the way we run. That's the way I started the salon."

His motto has made for a devoted clientele—he's got customers who have been coming back for more than 14 years—some of them from as far away as Sacramento.

"Jim is a wonderful haircutter and a lot of fun," says former Noe Valley resident Bonnie Homan. Even though Bonnie, her husband, Gary, and son, Jeff, moved to San Mateo years ago, they still make regular pilgrimages to Shear Delight. "I'm amazed at the loyalty," Hutchison says.

Loyalty infuses his three-person staff, too. Shear Delight opened in March of 1979, and Craig Morton hired on the following May. "He's been here ever since, except for a two-year lunch break when he left to start a salon with someone and it didn't work out," Hutchison recalls. "We accepted him back with open arms, and now, as long as I'm here, he's not leaving."

Eileen Claytor, who joined the crew in 1981, had worked with Hutchison for three years before that, when they were both employed at a salon in West Portal.

The newest arrival, Rubie Amramov, has been at Shear Delight a mere eight years. She's studying to become a psychologist, "so she's working both ways on her clients—outside, on the hair, and inside, on the head," says Hutchison with a grin.

Hutchison knows the neighborhood down to its roots, which, he says, have visibly changed over the years. "There used to be a lot of old Volkswagens and Toyotas parked on the street, and slowly but surely they became Hondas and newer Toyotas. Now I'm seeing a lot of baby carriages, and as these babies are growing up, their parents' hair is getting a little grayer, so we're doing more highlights and blend-ins."

Another change he has observed is in the composition of his clientele. "In the beginning it was quite a bit gay. Of course, I believe in no form of discrimination, but I did not want an exclusively gay salon. I think there's a range of people in the world, and I want them around in my life. I have gay friends and straight



Jim Hutchison has gotten into Noe Valleyans' hair for two decades, and they love it—so much so that clients like Bonnie Homan, a former resident who moved to San Mateo, still return for that special style Hutchison imparts. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

friends. My clientele is gay and straight, and everybody gets along just fine."

About 60 percent are women, 40 percent are men, and, Hutchison notes, "More are heterosexual than homosexual. Of course, I don't make them state their sexual preference before giving them a haircut!"

He sees Noe Valley as a neighborhood that takes pride in diversity—unlike his birthplace, Rapid City, S.D.

"It's a very small town, very conservative. I don't want to knock it too much, but if you're not in the model of 2.3 kids in a house with a garage door opener, you don't fit in too well. I think it's great for the people who live there, and I'm glad I don't."

In fact, as soon as he graduated from high school, Hutchison struck out for New York. Having worked as an orderly at a local hospital during his teen years in Rapid City, he got jobs in private-duty nursing while in New York, and put himself through cosmetology school.

"A lot of nurses become hairstylists, and a lot of hairstylists become nurses. It's funny how the two professions intertwine," he muses. "I think a lot of it has to do with taking care of people. It's a very personal thing to have someone touch your head and massage your neck and make you look good—or look bad, as the case may be!"

Hutchison moved to California in 1974, settled in Oakland, and enrolled in Don's Cosmetology School. Then he went to work in Don's salon in Hayward, and later got a job at the West Portal salon in San Francisco. "I've never looked for a job. They have always come to me," he says. "[But then] I've stayed with them for a long time. I'm pretty stable in my professional career and my personal life."

This isn't to say there haven't been some snarls along the way. Take the mother and daughter who gave Hutchison one of the more unpleasant experiences of his career.

They started out being friends. "We used to go to Giants' games with the mother," he recalls. But that was before the run-in with Sun-In.

The 12-year-old daughter wanted a perm, Hutchison explains, and when he asked her what kind of coloring she was putting on her hair, she said none. "It looked to me like it was bleached—like a Sun-In type home job. Sun-In is an over-the-counter product you buy to do your own highlights at home, which look like you did your own highlights at home," he gibes.

"She insisted that there was no color in her hair, and that she wanted the same kind of perm she had had before, so I did it. Well, her hair frizzed. And her mother called, very upset. And I said that if her daughter had been honest with me and told me that she had colored her hair, I would have used a different product and

this wouldn't have happened.

"She said, 'My daughter does not have color in her hair. She told me she doesn't.' And I said, 'She does, though, and that's why this happened.' She said, 'Are you calling my daughter a liar? And I said, 'I don't know how else to call it.' Needless to say, I have not seen either one of them again."

Thinking back on it, he should have ignored the girl and used his own judgment. "I let her tell me what to do, which I rarely do."

He does, however, let kids order the shaved sides and designs that are on the cutting edge of youth hair fashion today.

"Some of them want Giants or 49ers shaved in the back of their hair. It's a little tough when they want the word Giants. I say, 'How about S.F.?'"

As for those exotically colored heads that brighten the streetscape, he adds, "The kids can do it in their own kitchens, and a lot of them do."

Of course, Hutchison does coloring too. The shop also used to offer facials and manicures, but when the manicurist got married and decided to stay home with her new baby, Hutchison took over her quarters in the back and turned the space into a cozy suite with a television that functions as a Saturday morning babysitter for kids while their parents are being beautified. He also uses the suite's sleeping alcove to crash in, when he doesn't want to face the commute home to Walnut Creek, where he lives with his partner, Bob Russell.

Saturdays are extra busy, with clients stopping by to say hello and enjoy the banter that flies back and forth among the four chairs. "We've been together more than folks in a lot of marriages," Hutchison notes, adding, "so the shop is a fun place to come and get your hair cut."

They served coffee for a while, until Hutchison decided to "let the Meat Market [coffeehouse] do it." But they still serve wine in the evenings "to a few preferred customers." And who are those customers? "Pretty much anyone who says, 'What about a glass of wine?'" Hutchison jokes.

Compassion is also quietly dispensed. Hutchison used to go to hospices and homes to give ailing clients (usually AIDS sufferers) a haircut until "people got the impression that I was giving away free haircuts and started calling and wanting me to come over for a cut that day, so they could go out on a date that night—not quite what I had in mind." (Hutchison is usually booked two weeks in advance.)

"What I do now when clients become sick, and are on low income or no income, is reduce the price. When they have to stop working, their haircuts are free." And when they can no longer come into the shop, he goes to their homes.

His own HIV status was questioned five years ago by a client who had been with him for many years. "Before I answer this," he said to the client, "I want you to know that it really is none of your damn business." However, he figured that if she had nerve enough to ask, she needed to know.

"So I told her I was negative. I don't know how much of her concern was because she was worried about [catching] the disease, or because she was worried about me. But we never talked about it again." She still comes to the salon.

As his 40th birthday approaches in October ("I can't believe it. I still feel like I'm 24"), Hutchison says he's looking forward to taking a trip. Travel usually means camping excursions, which rack up 13,000 miles a year on his truck's speedometer, but this year he has put the word out to his friends that he wants to go to Hawaii for his birthday. And he points out that the preposition *for* is crucial here.

"They are saying, 'We want to go over your birthday,' meaning during that week. I'm saying, 'I want to go for my birthday, meaning I'd like to be taken."

"I'm a nice person. I'm worth it!" he laughs.

The neighborhood is full of delighted shearlings who would agree. □



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Clipper Street SAFE Group

Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson, 821-3866

Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847

Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Irregular

Duncan-Newborg Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,

Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or

Deanna Mooney, 821-4045

Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Irregular

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753

Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Room 108, James Lick School, 1220 Noe St., 8 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Al Ujic, 648-3545, or

Susan Nutter, 285-8484

Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938

Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,

San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium, 24th and Guerrero streets

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Steve Roseman, 824-0977, or

Georgia Finnegan, 285-8016

Answering machine number: 285-3532

Mailing Address: 1178 Dolores St.,

San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Glen Park Association

Contact: Joan Seiwald, 586-4448

Mailing Address: Glen Park Association,

P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen Park Recreation Center, Elk and Cheney, 7:30 p.m.

Liberty-Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or

Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232

Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,

San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Quarterly.

Call for time and location.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549

Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460574,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations

Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch (donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

R.A.A.G.E.

Race Awareness Arbitration Group Education

Contact: 285-5322

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 426199,

San Francisco, CA 94142

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., place to be announced

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989

Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.

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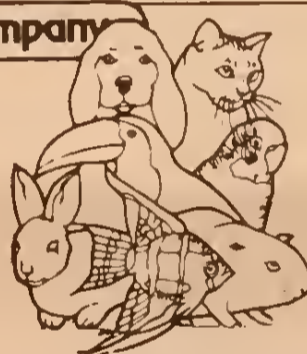
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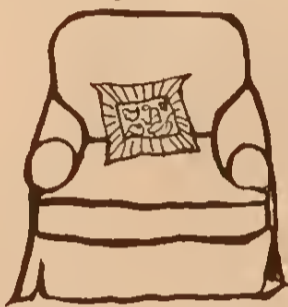


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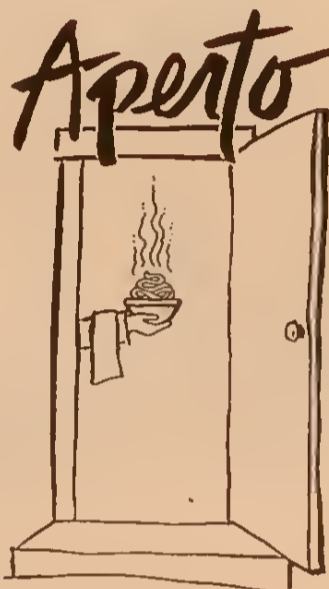
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Far East Fan: In the bustle of Hong Kong's shopping district, student Maki Yum sneaks a look at the news from exotic 24th Street. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

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Psychic Healer Bids a Gentle Goodbye to Her Own and Other People's Ghosts

By Denise Minor

There are ghosts all over Noe Valley. One used to haunt The Planters nursery on 24th Street. Another frequented the store and flats at the southeast corner of 23rd and Douglass streets.

A third, named George, often made life difficult for Kim Mercuri Bullis at her Clipper Street home.

"You just have to bless them, send them off to the astral plane, and on to God," says 71-year-old Bullis, neighborhood healer, psychic, and poet, and the matriarch of her local "spiritual family."

("I'm blessed," she adds with a wink. "The family I have now is the family I chose.")

Helping ghosts move on to their maker is but one of Bullis' many pursuits. She blesses homes and businesses, christens children, performs wedding ceremonies, and writes poetry about everything from love to traffic.

Bullis can often be found perusing the crystal selection at Star Magic on 24th Street, a shop where she feels welcome.

"I used to go there when it was called Gifts of the Magi and located on the southeast corner of 24th and Noe streets [where Starbucks Coffee is now]. It had such a good feeling," she recalls.

When Star Magic moved to its current location at 4026 24th St. in the early 1980s, Bullis took part in a special ceremony blessing the store before it opened for business. Since then, she has become close friends with many of the workers there.

"We're members of the same church, the Gentle Brothers and Sisters," she says. "It's a metaphysical church, formed in Santa Cruz in the 1970s."

Bullis recently sat down for a chat with the *Voice* in the sunny living room of her son's house on Potrero Hill. Her Clipper Street dwelling was "in transition and quite a mess," she says, so she opted for the family's second home.

She began the interview by ringing a bell to "call in the angels," then lit a candle, and placed sprigs of Russian and Mexican sage, lemon verbena, santolina, and Lamb's Ear herbs—all from her garden—on the table. Bullis then read one of her poems about an imaginary tranquil place, and over tea and cookies told the



Clipper Street resident Kim Bullis says one of her most precious objects is this ceremonial eagle drum, a gift from Taos, N.M. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

story of her life.

Her history includes untimely deaths, divorce, a landslide, and physical disability. Each painful experience, however, has been followed by a positive life change. "The angels have always looked after me," she says. "I've always landed on my feet."

Rock bottom for Bullis came in the 1970s when she contracted progressive lung disease. "The illness was devastating when it happened, but I see now that it was a blessing in disguise," she says. "It changed my whole life for the better."

The lung damage resulted from her exposure to dust stirred up by a construction project at a hospital where she was a health care worker. (Bullis prefers not to name the hospital.) During the first years of the illness, her doctor kept her heavily sedated.

"I sat in my house for two years," Bullis says. "I was taking 75 milligrams of tranquilizers a day...and was sleeping my life away."

But then a doctor friend told her she might not need so much medication and that, what's more, it was probably inter-

fering with her breathing. So she stopped the tranquilizers "cold turkey," and started rebuilding her future. During her convalescence, she had plenty of time to read and meditate, she says, and it was then that she began the slow but steady climb to greater spiritual awareness.

She also discovered a KPFA radio program called "New Dimensions," which brought speakers to the air such as the Dalai Lama and Buckminster Fuller. "It gave my life back to me, and I realized that even if I couldn't walk, I could think."

Bullis wanted to reach out to someone for help, so she went to a psychic reader. "He said, 'You're spiritual,'" recounts Bullis, "and that I was fulfilling my life purpose."

She then began taking classes from him and studying the Tibetan teachings offered by British channeler Alice Bailey. "That's when I found out that I'm clairvoyant."

"I'd always sensed things coming up, but didn't know much about my ability," says Bullis. "Well, one day we were doing healings at the teacher's home, and I

went into a trance. I went out of my body and started talking to spirits. Everyone thought it was a big deal, but it all felt quite natural to me."

Bullis also discovered that her paternal grandmother was a Cherokee Indian, a fact her father had never acknowledged. "When I found that out, many things made sense," including her long-held fascination for Native American culture.

That her father had divulged almost nothing about her ancestry came as no surprise to Bullis. "I was never close to my father. He had five children with my mother," she says, but he had little to do with the children's upbringing.

When Bullis was 13 years old, her mother died of cancer, so the family moved from Springfield, Mo., in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, to Kansas City. There she spent adolescence and then trained to become a nurse.

During World War II, Bullis fell in love and became engaged to an enlisted man whom she followed to Oklahoma. Before they married, he was killed in a battle in Germany. Her brother lived in Los Angeles at that time, and invited her to come stay with him.

"Los Angeles was lovely back then. There were big red streetcars that ran from downtown Los Angeles to Hollywood," she says. "You could go to Sunset Boulevard and see the stars out walking."

During her year in L.A., Bullis worked as a nanny and made friends with some young women and student GIs who rented rooms from her aunt at a boarding house on West Adams. The Sundays they spent together still stand out in her mind.

"We always wore our bathing suits under our Sunday clothes and took our underwear in a bag," she recalls. "We would go to Clifton's cafeteria for breakfast and eat until we were stuffed. Then we would go to the beach and have hot dogs in the afternoon."

"In the evening, we would go to the Avalon Ballroom. You know who was playing there? Lawrence Welk," she laughs. "A few times we went to the Hollywood Bowl. That's where I met Mickey Rooney."

It was in Los Angeles that Bullis first began to suspect that she had second sight. "In the Midwest, I had a recurring dream of being in an exotic place with animals and palm trees," she says. "Well, one day my cousin invited me to the zoo. I wore high heels—can you imagine?—and twisted my ankle."

"I bent down to take off my shoe and turned around, and there behind a chain-link fence was a zebra, a giraffe, llamas, and palm trees, just like in my dream."

After nine months in the city of angels, Bullis took a train to San Francisco to visit a friend over the Christmas holidays. "The minute I stepped off the train at Third and Townsend, I knew I'd found

Continued Next Page

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Kim Bullis can "call in the angels" with a bell, and has helped to banish (in a kindly way) the troubled ghosts inhabiting several Noe Valley properties. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.

my home."

Here she met her son Stephen's father, Alexander Mercuri, "a fine Italian boy." The marriage didn't last beyond her pregnancy, however, and Bullis was determined to find a 9-to-5 job after the baby was born. But when she fully realized the demands of motherhood, she decided otherwise, and made ends meet by managing an apartment building, selling Avon cosmetics, and babysitting.

When her son was 3½, she remarried and moved to the suburbs of Westlake. "I thought I was going to die. It was a no man's land," she now says. "After two years, a landslide destroyed our house, and we moved back to the city. So really, it was a blessing."

After many years, Bullis divorced her second husband and found herself spending more time with her friends, two of whom lived in Noe Valley. "I would come down Portola from work, then turn onto Clipper on my way to visit, and I often thought, I want to live on this street."

In 1973, her dream came true, and she and her son bought the house they now share. "At the time we moved onto Clipper Street, the house was so terrible that

the realtor couldn't get anyone to go inside," she says. "Believe me, it was gross."

"But it's over 100 years old and made of solid redwood," she adds, "and the lot is real deep." The building also is tailor-made for someone with physical disabilities, she points out, since it has only one step up in the front and one step down in back, "to my lovely little secret garden, my church."

In the garden, Bullis has composed many of the poems that fill her five handwritten books. She finds peace and quiet there—especially now that the resident ghost, George, has departed the premises.

"We bought the house from him and his wife. He was in his cups [drinking heavily] then," says Bullis. George moved away, and she doesn't know when he died, but she does know that 13 years ago he began making regular return visits.

"We'd know he was here because [our dog] Romeo's ears would stand straight up and he would point towards the back door," says Bullis. "George would come in through the back door, go through the kitchen, and head to the bedroom."

To give him a little nudge back to his resting place, she and her friends "would

burn sage—sandalwood works as well—and we'd picture him in a white light, then tell him to go on to the Christ consciousness," she says. "I was always blessing the house, too, and doing things that change its vibration, like ringing bells, playing music, and lighting candles."

Sometimes these things would work, but then out of the blue George would reappear. Finally, reconstruction of the back porch convinced him to leave.

"One day the builders were out back working, and they came running in and said, 'You've got a spirit here,'" recalls Bullis. George had thrown some lumber around and knocked over some paint cans right in front of them. "I said, 'I know. That's George.'"

Bullis went through her familiar ritual, and this time George disappeared for good.

The ghost at The Planters nursery on 24th Street was sent away in a similar fashion. The business is located in what was once a house, and a worker there complained to Bullis that he felt a presence in the back room that made him uneasy. The presence was strongest at about 5 p.m. She went to the shop to investigate.

"I leaned against the sink, in what had

been a kitchen, and I felt him very strongly," says Bullis. She went into a trance and discovered that the man had been an Irish teamster who had lived in the house.

"He used to come home at 5 in the evening, lean against the sink, and talk to his wife while she cooked," says Bullis. "Anyway, he wasn't malevolent. He just wasn't too happy about his home being converted into a business." Bullis blessed him, and that was the last they heard of The Planters' Ghost.

"Spirits can come and go as they please," she maintains. "But they're not supposed to stay, or they become landlocked. And they're not supposed to mess up anyone's life."

Bullis is not only interested in spirits at the end of the life cycle. She is also concerned about those at the beginning—children. She loves to watch the little ones who gather outside her front window, usually to peer in at her parrot, Woodstock, and canary, Luciano.

She feels that children hold the key to peace and understanding. "There are many babies coming into the world right now who are star children," she says in a hushed tone. "They're here to help us get our planet straightened out." □

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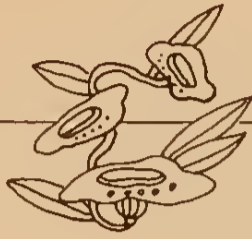
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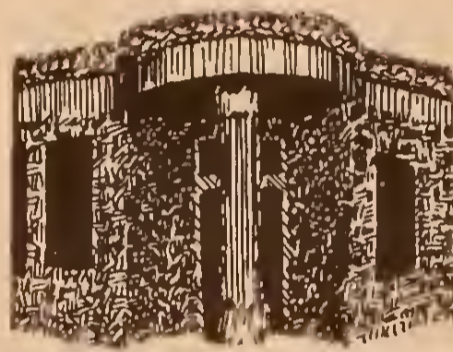
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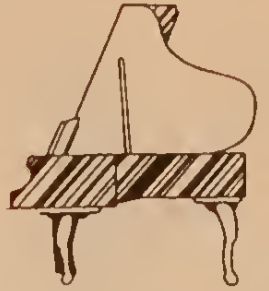
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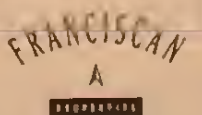
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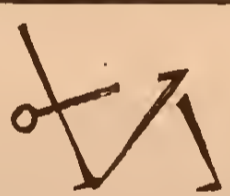
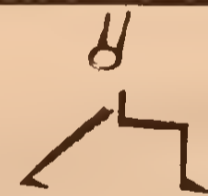
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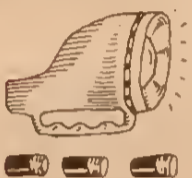


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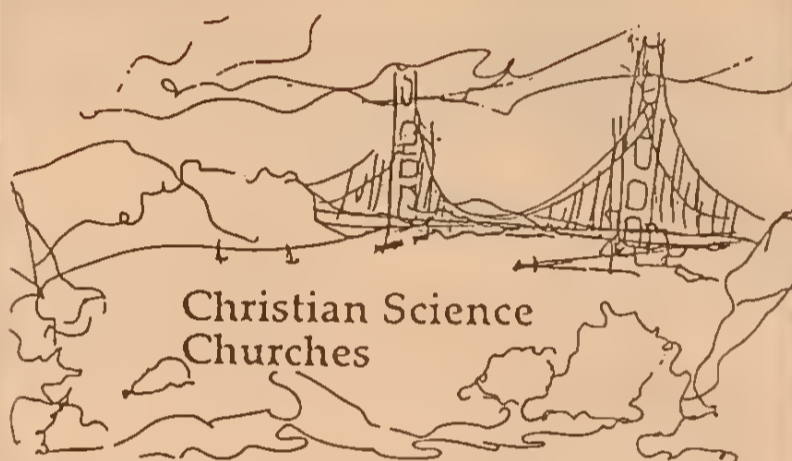
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*"I can't tell my friends
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W

e've all experienced the frustration of being alone, worried and wide awake in the middle of the night. Finding someone to talk to at night can be difficult: most AIDS services are closed, and calling friends or family can feel uncomfortable.

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I have worked as a docent at the de Young Museum for the past 10 years, and for the last few weeks, my thoughts have been dominated by pre-Aztec history, as I prepare myself to lead tours of the spectacular landmark exhibition "Teotihuacan: City of the Gods," which opened May 26 and closes Oct. 31, 1993.

The 200 works in the six-room exhibit bring to light the importance and grandeur of a Mesoamerican civilization that flourished more than 1,200 years ago, from 1 to 750 A.D., in an urban complex located 30 miles to the north-east of present-day Mexico City.

The de Young installation is stunning, revealing the integrity and uniqueness of that civilization's surviving art forms, and the exhibition's explanatory panels, in both English and Spanish, underscore the collaboration between the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology and History.

It was the Spanish panels that captured my wandering thoughts and compressed them into the contents of this column—for they reminded me of my tenuous relationship with the Spanish language, which began in high school.

I chose Spanish because its sounds were soft and musical, and also because the country where it was spoken, Mexico, was just south of the California border. (The year was 1935, when only the wealthy could afford to travel overseas. For most of us growing up in San Francisco, the closest we came to foreign travel was a trip to the Russian River in Sonoma County.)

Although I devoted several years to the new words and unfamiliar pronunciations, I never approached fluency. I quickly forgot my Spanish once I left school.

Ten years later, when my man Leo and I decided to take a trip with our two sons to Baja, California—in a wood-paneled 1948 Ford station wagon—we really could have made use of my neglected second language.



The Goddess and the Storm God/La Diosa y el Dios de la Tormenta



Temples and Images/Templos e imágenes



Apartment Compounds/Conjuntos habitacionales

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub



Summer, Serpents, and Spanish

The coastal village of Ensenada was our destination, and there at the uncrowded end of a sandy beach, Leo and I basked in the sun, watching our little ones, who had just learned to swim, as they splashed about in the gentle surf. There was a sign in Spanish posted nearby, but we had no idea what the words meant.

Suddenly we noticed our 6-year-old thrashing about. We rushed to his assistance—fortunately, he didn't really need it—and he explained that he had come to a place where he hadn't been able to touch the bottom with his feet, which was why he had briefly panicked. It occurred to us then that the sign in Spanish might be a warning of some kind. We learned later that it was indeed a warning—of the 50-foot drop in the ocean floor just to the left of where our sons had been frolicking!

We stayed in a small adobe complex, the kind the natives preferred, and explored the open market when not at the beach. There we ate our first Mexican tacos. We also purchased souvenirs—baskets, blue spun glassware, a sombrero for each of us, and a book to help me brush up on my Spanish. The book, I must confess, was really a comic book titled *Superhombre*, dated 19 junio 1951.

Over the past 40 years, the glasses have all been broken, and the baskets and sombreros have fallen apart, but *Superhombre* is still intact, with only half of the first page translated. (The trip was almost over, I reasoned, and almost everyone spoke English anyway—so who needed Spanish?)

Well, it would have come in handy when I began my training to lead tours of the Mesoamerican collection. During slide lectures, the speakers often mentioned a name that I could not find on my map, pronounced "Wahocka," and it was only much later that I finally realized they were referring to Oaxaca! The bilingual panels at the current

exhibition may prove helpful to those who need to brush up on their Spanish. But whether one reads it in English or Spanish, the information is fascinating.

According to the first panel, "Teotihuacan, City of the Gods/*Teotihuacan: ciudad de los dioses*" began its history as a sacred place, laid out on a grid pattern—geometrically and astrologically calculated with great precision, yet constructed with Stone Age tools.

It was the western hemisphere's first real city, sporting wide boulevards, temple complexes, and huge pyramids. At its height the city had a population of 150,000, and it is thought to have been a religious center, a magnet that drew worshipers from other major localities, such as El Tajin on the Gulf Coast and Guatemala far to the south. The display "The Influence of Teotihuacan/*La influencia de Teotihuacan*" clearly illustrates the peaceful interaction of this powerful religious center with other major urban centers.

Another display, "Early Teotihuacan and the Great Pyramids/*Temprano y las grandes pirámides*," features two large stone serpent heads that were once tenoned into the side of the Temple of the Feathered Serpent.

In the next room, there is an exhibit that focuses on the two major deities that the pyramids were dedicated to, "The Goddess and the Storm God/*La Diosa y el Dios de la Tormenta*." The goddess symbolized corn and nature, while the storm god seems to have been associated with rain and water, so important to agricultural people.

In the display "Figurines/*Figurillas*," there are enigmatic clay figures called "host" figures, which have tiny, elaborately dressed figurines in their chest cavities or limbs. The display also gives us some charming terracotta depictions of family groups in a variety of dress.

"Luxury Ceramics/*Cerámicas de lujo*" is just what it sounds like: elegant

pottery!

"Temples and Images/*Templos e imágenes*" is a collection of masks and figures carved from greenstone, which was considered a precious stone.

The room titled "Apartment Compounds/*Conjuntos habitacionales*" houses the censers (*insensarios*)—incense burners that were used for the ritual burning of copal—as well as several fragments of murals, some of them quite large, which once decorated the walls of the dwellings.

The murals came to the de Young Museum as a gift in 1976, upon the death of Harald Wagner, who had acquired them before Mexican laws were enacted to prevent further loss of ancient artifacts. The ethical questions were resolved over a period of 15 years, and a cooperative program was developed that fostered the conservation and return of a large portion of the murals to Mexico. This all led to the current exclusive exhibition at the de Young.

The city that spawned so many amazing works of art and architecture came to an abrupt and violent end in the eighth century, when everything in it, for reasons we may never know, was destroyed and abandoned. Six hundred years later, the Aztecs migrated to the Valley of Mexico, and were so awed by the ruins of the city that they named it Teotihuacan, which means City of the Gods—for who else could have been capable of such magnificence?

Before closing, I just want to say that I hope you are all enjoying your summer vacations as much as I am enjoying my own—a trip to Mexico, without the expense and inconvenience of leaving my Noe Valley haven for more than a few hours at a time!

Adios amigos—until September/septiembre!



Mural Painting/La pintura mural



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The Influence of Teotihuacan/La influencia de Teotihuacan

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10 Steps to N.V. Nirvana

THE NOE VALLEY TOURISM BUREAU has just released its 10-kilometer Noe Valley Trot, featuring 10 tourist attractions in and around the neighborhood. You might find the six-hour Trot useful, especially when family and friends-from-out-of-town show up at your door, seeking local color and photo opportunities.

Tourism Bureau spokesperson José de Jesus Noe VIII—a descendant of the city's last Mexican *alcalde* (mayor), who reined and reigned over his San Francisco ranchlands until 1846—says the tour is absolutely free, but participants should carry enough money for a cup of coffee and perhaps a sweatshirt. In summertime, those foghorns will be blowing beyond the Peaks (see weather story in June issue of *Voice*).

1. Begin the tour at the Twin Peaks lookout, which affords the best overview of greater Noe Valley and the rest of the Bay Area. After seeing whether you can spot your house from there (or at least James Lick School), trot down Twin Peaks Boulevard to the top of Market Street, then turn left at McAteer High School and proceed to Clipper Street. Take a right on Clipper, your first left at Grand View, then stroll down to the top of 24th Street and turn right. (It is acceptable to do this part in a car, if necessary.)

2. Descend into Noe Valley proper on foot, while observing the marvelous Victorian architecture on either side of 24th Street. Check out the house at 4407 24th St. (built 1896), with its oeil-de-hoef (eye of an ox) dormer window, or the beauties at 4403 and 4405 24th St. (c. 1892), which have diamond patterns and fish scales on the slanted bay windows.

Or how about the sunbursts and the diamond medallions in the friezes above the doors and windows of the Stick-style cottages at 4303 and 4305 24th St. They were built around 1891.

As you stroll by the storefronts at 4175–81 24th St., remember that the first automobile in California, the Pioneer, was constructed out back in 1896.

3. Entering Downtown Noe Valley, slow to a crawl. First smell the garlic as you pass by Little Italy Restaurant.

Then pause at the central intersection of 24th and Castro, and offer a remembrance to the days ('60s and '70s) when, rain or shine, there was a line outside Bud's Ice Cream (now Rory's parlor).

and now for the RUMORS behind the news BY MAZOOK

Kitty-corner to Rory's is the Bank of America Building, which opened circa 1935. Tell your guests that there used to be a cable car line that ran up and over the Castro Street Hill (height 407 feet) to Eureka Valley (aka "the Castro"). The cable cars were powered by a car barn situated in the spot now occupied by the Noe Valley Walgreen's.

4. After you've checked out the stylish decor at Hamano Sushi, our sparkling selection of used clothing stores (One More Time, Mary's Exchange, Allure), the size of the burritos at Simon's Spanish Shop, and the handmade creations at Out of Hand on Castro, continue window-shopping along 24th Street.

In the block between Castro and Noe, there's a Gallery of Jewels, Small Frys children's clothing, the Classy Sweats shop for you know what, a sock and shorts bonanza at Ocean Front Walkers, and the Wooden Heel Shoe Repair, where you can purchase extra padding if you elect to continue this tour.

On the left side of the street, check out Star Magic's intergalactic ambience, and then you might want to pay a visit to the fish swimming around in the tanks at B-Tech Aquarium.

5. Before doing that, though, get a load of the treasure trove (albeit quite old and conservative) sitting in the window at Twin Peaks Properties, a shop established in 1947 by realtor Harry Aleo, who just might be on the premises. Ask Harry if the picture of him with Ronald Reagan is real, or if he's a cardboard cutout too. He'll enjoy that.

Harry's featured window message these days is "First Hillary, then Jennifer, and now us." (Oh yeah, I get it—took me a while to remember who Jennifer was.) Harry strikes me as a mined nugget of coal trapped in a canary cage. Noe Valley, of course, is the canary in a much larger coal mine.

6. By the time you reach Noe Street, you will be entering a very special use district—Coffee Gulch or Gulp, if you prefer (see story, page 1). In one block, you will have no less than 11 chances to buy a cup of coffee, at Starbucks (which held a grand opening June 26), or at Herb's, Bakers of Paris, Spinelli's, Bell (free coffee for shoppers), the Chef, Tien Fu (currently closed, but set to reopen),

Double Rainbow, La Casona, the Courtyard Cafe, and The Pantry. Excuse me if I've left anybody out.

While sipping your cappuccino, listen to the tunes emanating from Streetlight Records, or from the closest street musician or panhandler. Or leave your coffee at the curb, and try on some leggings (the wind is starting to whip up) at Joshua Simon, Rabat, or Glad Rags. Wander in Just for Fun just for fun.

You've probably had a few more holes pierced in your ears by now, so stroll down to Xela Imports or Rose Quartz for the huge assortment of dangling adornments. Or if olfactory impressions are in order, sniff some buds at Accent on Flowers, powder your nose at Common Scents (bath shop), or have a whiff at the 24th Street Cheese Company.

7. At this point, you should be crossing Sanchez. And if you've passed up the Rat and Raven and Cork and Bottle (or Rat and Rattle, as we like to call 'em), you might want to stop by the Duhliner bar, a magnet for the neighborhood's Irish.

Somewhere along in here is Cradle of the Sun, whose window of stained-glass art objects is always a crowd-pleaser.

Also, don't miss our collection of new and used bookstores. Both Cover to Cover and Phoenix Books are right in the thick of things, at 24th and Sanchez and 24th and Vicksburg, respectively. Carroll's Books, which has an armchair or two, is over at Church and 24th, next to the palm reader (don't forget to do that, too).

Oops, just remembered that the S.F. Mystery Bookstore (open Friday through Sunday) is back up the hill at 24th and Diamond. Sorry if you have to turn around, but this is a real gem.

8. No Noe Valley jog (you *are* still jogging, aren't you?) would be complete without a turn down Church Street. Since Church is rapidly becoming a haven for the meet-for-lunch bunch, you might want to skip over to Rami's, 1361 Church St., or Chloe's, 1399 Church St., to sample the salads and California cuisine.

Further down Church, Eric's Restaurant has mouth-watering Chinese food, and Speckmann's Deli makes great inexpensive sandwiches. Or Hungry Joe's, 1748 Church St., will satisfy the carnivores in your party. But everybody will

want to finish the repast at What's For Dessert, at Church and 27th streets.

9. Next, stroll to the end of the J-line at 30th Street (or what was the end of the J-line—Muni just extended the route to Balboa Park), stopping at Lady Sybil's Closet (1484 Church), Homes of Charm (1544 Church), and St. Paul's Cathedral (the site of the movie *Sister Act*) along the way.

Pick up some oranges (4 pounds for a dollar) at Church Produce, 1798 Church St., and turn right on 30th. Then progress one block to Sanchez and turn right. From there, jog north on Sanchez—stopping for another cup of coffee at Cafe Sanchez—until you reach 21st Street.

At the top of the hill, catch your breath and admire the enchanting "cottage" on the northeast corner, once owned by San Francisco Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph (and allegedly used to ensconce his mistress). There's a remarkable view of downtown here, too.

Next, walk one block down the other side of the Sanchez Street hill and turn right on Liberty Street. Along a five-block stretch of Liberty, which is one of San Francisco's official landmark districts, you'll find a row of delightful houses that date back to 1871.

(By the way, if you want to retrace your steps a bit, the first house ever built in Noe Valley, c. 1868, is located at 3780 23rd St., between Church and Chattanooga streets. It was originally situated a block away on Church, but was moved down the hill around 1900.)

On Liberty Street, the Stick and Italianate-style Victorians dominate, but my favorite is the Queen Anne home at 27–29 Liberty.

10. When you hit Guerrero, turn right and go south to 22nd Street. Hang a right on 22nd, and jog straight up 22nd to the finish line at Noe Street.

Tell your companions to sprint up the steps between Church and Vicksburg (one of the steepest hills in the city), because a trip to San Francisco wouldn't be right unless your calves ached.

If you look south from the finish line, you will catch another fabulous view of Noe Valley, including Diamond Heights to the southwest, and the Fairmount District to the south. Beautiful, eh?

☎ ☎ ☎

SPEAKING OF TOURS, Judith Lynch, famed for her guided walking tours of Noe Valley, has drawn some local color

Continued Next Page

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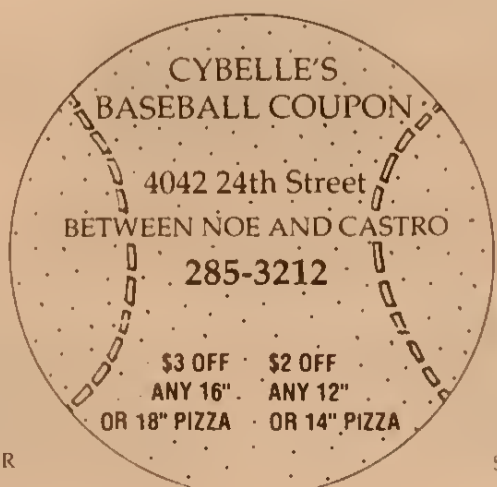
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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

into her first- and second-grade class at Glen Park School.

Noe Valley artist and writer Henry Sanz devoted six Wednesdays to helping Lynch's kids create a Victorian village made out of baker's clay. Attending the "unveiling" of the village, which featured more than 100 tiny houses, was Henry's dear friend and inspiration, Noe Valley artist Ruth Asawa. Local artist Bruce Sherman played the melodeon for the festivities.

Judith says she's planning a neighborhood walking tour in October, but right now she's reeling from bad news: after completing her first year as a teacher in the San Francisco public school system, she received a layoff notice last month. People should know that Judith is not only an art historian, but a published author and television producer who went back to school several years ago to get her teaching credential.



MORE GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS from the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation:

The good news is San Franciscans voted overwhelmingly to extend the quarter-cent sales tax that is helping to bail out our schools. The bad news is, of 17,247 registered voters in Noe Valley, only 22 percent showed up at the polls June 15. The Noe Valley vote was 3,060 yes, 787 no.

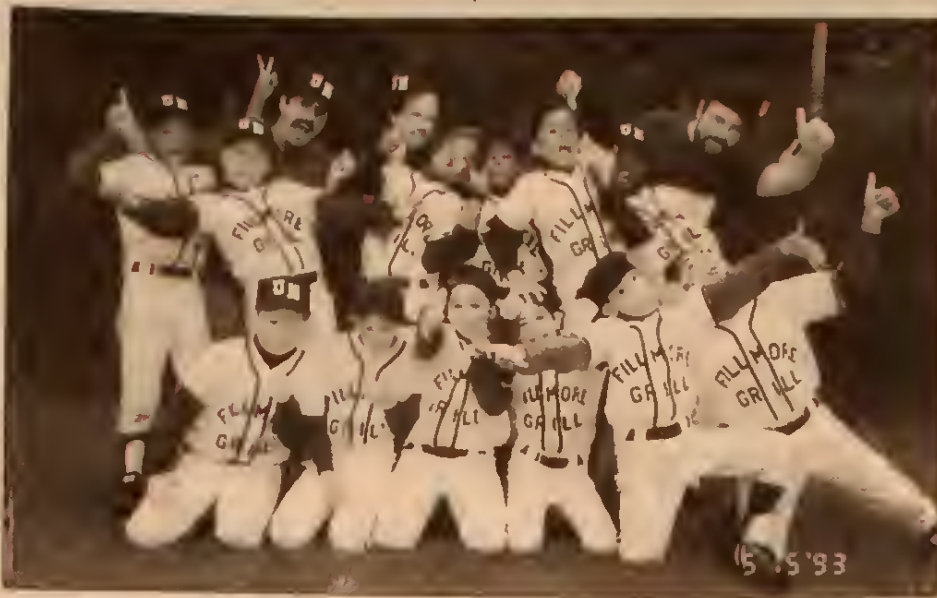
The good news about Father Martin Greenlaw, the pastor of St. Paul's who was mugged at his Sunset District home (see the May Voice), is that he is much improved and hopes for a satisfactory recovery from the severe beating he suffered.

However, the popular priest has found it necessary to temporarily resign from his position at St. Paul's. Father Mario Farana will come over from St. Stephen's Church starting July 1.



MORE LOCAL COLOR: Bonnie Black, who runs the Chamaeleon, a new and used clothing shop in the Noe Valley Mall, has commissioned two students from St. Philip's School to draw designs on the paper bags she gives to customers.

The 11-year-old bag artists are Julie Newton and Iris Kenyan. "We've gotten a real good response from our customers, and I am so pleased with their work, we



Root for the Home Team: Despite the continuing roar of the Giants a couple of miles to the south, these two Upper Noe Valley Recreation teams just completed their own shining seasons on the diamond. The 9 and 10-year-olds calling themselves the Wild Things are (top photo, left to right, first row) Seamus Donovan, Tosh Shephard-Ohta, Jake Arbunich, Lalo Gutzman, Anthony Black, and Fred Estrada; and (second row) Nayo Fuentes, Carlo Solis, Teddy Young, Jamar Colbert, Mario Sandino, and Michael Mays. Coaches Juan Fuentes, Kevin Black, and Jim Donovan make up the third row. The 6 and 7-year-old Sluggos pictured below with Coach Kevin Black are (first row) Tony Basset, Jeremy Black, Corrine Britton, Ben Daniels, and Justin Dorlan; (second row) team mascot Gregory Black, Buddy Fields, David Quintana, Tim Daniels, Scott Streeter, Jose Studer, and Richard Cibotti; and (third row) Joshua Osequeda, Gerardo Courtade, Ryan Perez, Ronald Quintana, and Herschell Briscoe. Now all these boys need are some Noe Valley sponsors. How 'bout it, merchants?



are going to continue over the summer," beams Bonnie.

In other DNV news, Nails Design, a manicure salon, will now occupy the 24th Street slot vacated by Cocolat in January. The nail shop was all set to have a grand opening at the end of June.

Also, the Diamond Street Restaurant (737 Diamond near 24th) is no more. According to the sign, Ristorante Bacco

(sounds pretty Italian to me) will be the replacement.

Things are definitely not "avanti" (go) for whatever entity bought the old Security Pacific building at 4040 24th St. Bank of America spokesman Jack Houseman says, "The escrow on that property has yet to close," and the bank won't disclose the high-bidder's i.d. until it does.

TOP OF THE POPS: In video land, Alexander Gardener from Video Wave reports that *Howards End* is still the rage, as it should be. Alexander adds that the PBS production *Berkeley in the Sixties* has also been quite popular.

An ad for *Jurassic Park* is posted on Downtown Noe Valley's only billboard at Castro and Jersey, but the movie probably won't be rentable until 1994.

Over at West Coast Video, "Joe" says he can't keep *Reservoir Dogs* in the store. (If you've forgotten the reviews, folks, please remember that this movie is extremely violent, and not about puppies.)

According to Streetlight Records, the musically inclined are demanding Donald Fagen's new release, *Kamakiriad*. Fagen used to be a vocalist with Steely Dan.

Aquarius Records reports that a locally produced musical tribute to the film *Night of the Living Dead* is hot. Some S.F. bands who appear on the album are Zipcode Rapist, Three Day Stubble, and Icky Boyfriends. Nice names, you guys (I assume they are guys).

For those still reading, Cover to Cover reports that its best-selling fiction remains *The Bridges of Madison County*, by Robert James Waller. On the non-fiction list, believe it or not, the winner is Dean Ornish's *Eat More Weigh Less*. I've been trying that diet, but the more I eat the more I weigh.

According to the folks at Good Times newsstand, your most-read out-of-town paper is the *New York Times*. No surprise there.

One of the most-listened-to radio stations, other than KQED or KALW, must be KGO. Several Noe Valley residents informed me that they caught a recent talk show hosted by Noe Valleeon Bernie Ward, in which callers were asked to expound on their favorite service-with-a-smile businesses. People phoned in, extolling the virtues of Tuggey's Hardware, Drewes Market (the butcher store on Church), and What's For Dessert, among others.



WHICH BRINGS ME BACK to my pet peeve of the month: why is it that a good teacher like Judith Lynch would be axed just when we need her?

San Franciscans better get their priorities straight, and stop cutting people and programs that work, while wasting money on administering programs that don't. It's education, stupid.

Ciao, and see you in September. □

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Sombrero Bonding: Students from Cecilia de Larrazabal's first-grade Spanish bilingual class at Alvarado performed a dance during the school's annual *Semana de la Raza* celebration.

PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP



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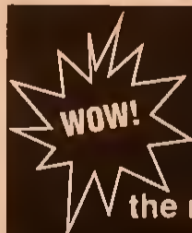
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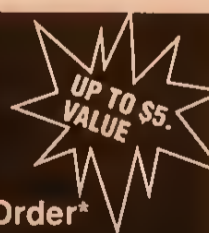
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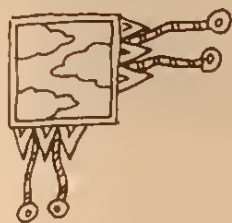
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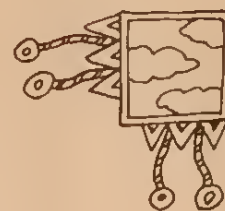
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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Laura McHale Holland

Michael Stevenson Aldrich

When their 6-pound, 6-ounce son was born at 10:19 p.m. on April 26, 1992, at California Pacific Medical Center, Jill and Danny Aldrich gave him the upright name of Michael Stevenson Aldrich.

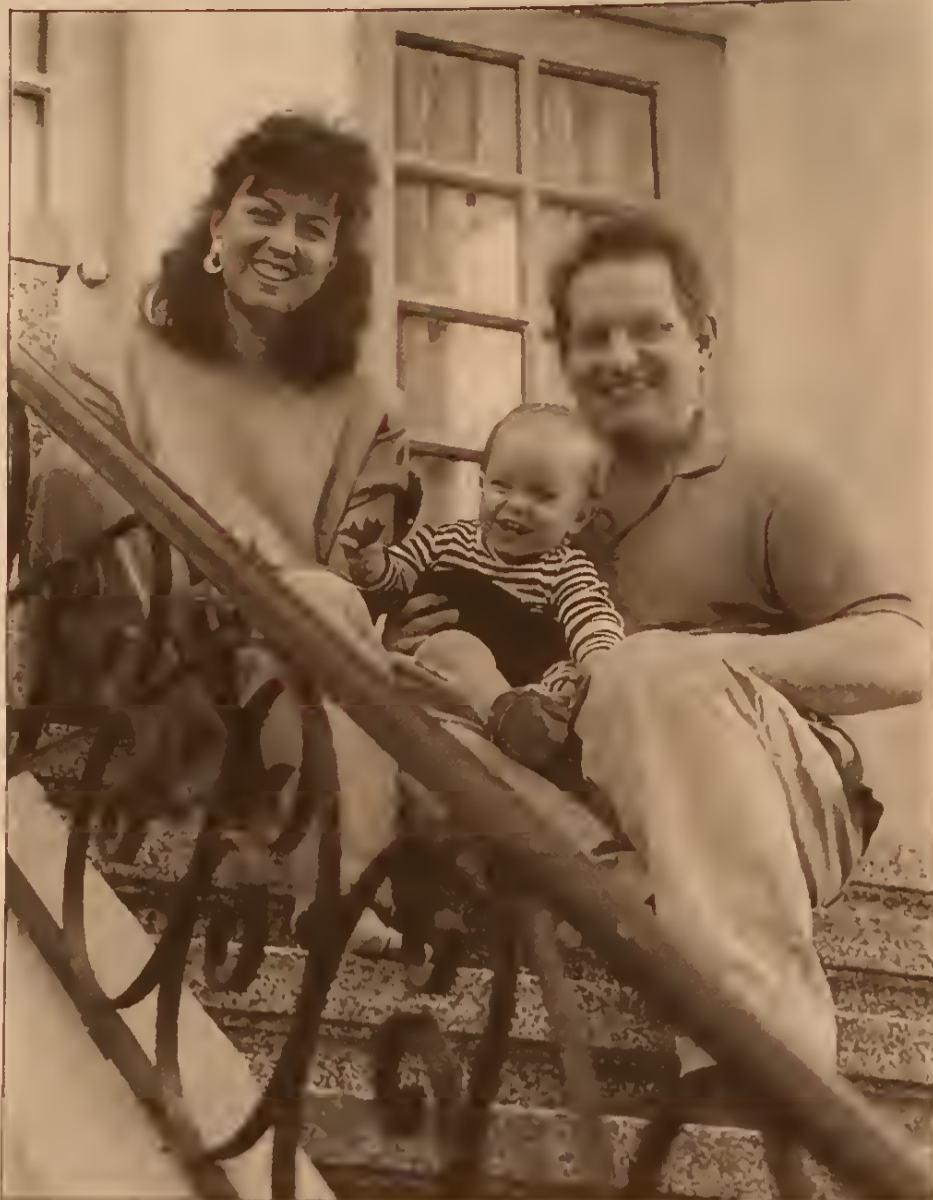
But around their Chattanooga Street flat, he's known as the Mike Man, Dr. Dookie, Mellow Yellow (because he's easygoing and olive-complexioned like his mom), and Mr. 2,000 Flushes (because he would, if allowed, flush the toilet ad nauseum).

"We also call him Tuna," says 33-year-old Jill. "But I wish we'd been a little more thoughtful with our nicknaming, because that one has stuck. A friend had a bib personalized for him, and it says Tuna," she laughs. But such nicknames probably won't bother the happy-go-lucky Mike Man.

"He seems to have such a good time, period," says 37-year-old Danny. "He takes things in stride—he's very flexible and doesn't get too upset about anything."

Danny and Jill met as college students at Georgia State University in Atlanta in 1978. Ten years later, they honeymooned in San Francisco, and were eager to return to the Bay Area when Danny, an associate publisher of a computer trade magazine, was transferred here in September of 1989.

They told their folks they'd be back in two years, but four years later, they're still in Noe Valley—and still in love with 24th Street, their flat, their friends, and



Jill and Danny Aldrich are flush with the excitement of parenting baby Michael, but "Mr. 2,000 Flushes" would rather spend his time testing the household plumbing. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

their day-to-day life with Dr. Dookie.

"My favorite thing is probably getting up on Saturday morning and strolling along to the San Francisco Coffee Company with my wife and son. Michael has a little outfit on. He's got his bottle and a bagel. There's a whole ritual we enjoy," says Danny.

Jill adds that she thrives on her twice-weekly meetings with a group of mothers she met through Natural Resources, a childbirth and parenting center on 24th Street.

"I don't know what I would have done without the moms' group, being so far from home," she says. "I didn't have my mom and my friends to rely on, so I would ask the other moms every week about breast-feeding, crying, ear infections, or colds. And I got great advice."

As a freelance writer, Jill notes that it recently took her a week to finish a one-page story, which would have taken only three to four hours in her pre-mothering days. "It's hard to concentrate when you have someone drooling in your slipper,"



The Voice couldn't resist printing this adorable baby photo of Michael Stevenson Aldrich, also known as the Mike Man.

she explains.

But the riches of motherhood, she quickly adds, far outweigh its tribulations. "When I hear his comforter rustle in the morning and see his little head peeking over the crib bars, I realize that's what life is all about."

And when her son derives joy from the simple act of looking at a tree, so does she.

"He makes me feel more of everything in life," says Jill, "more happy, more sad."

Mr. 2,000 Flushes has also made quite an impression on his dad, causing him to see the ripple effect created by even his most minor decisions.

"You realize that you are going to be an example, and that to compromise and not really pursue your dreams will have a big impact on your children," Danny says. "That's what life's all about, being true to yourself. Having children makes you see how urgent all that is, how finite everything is in terms of time."

So some Saturday morning, if you see Mellow Yellow smiling from his stroller on 24th Street—his bald head covered with a dapper cap—you'll know that at his tender age, he's already helped his parents come a step closer to fulfilling their dreams. □

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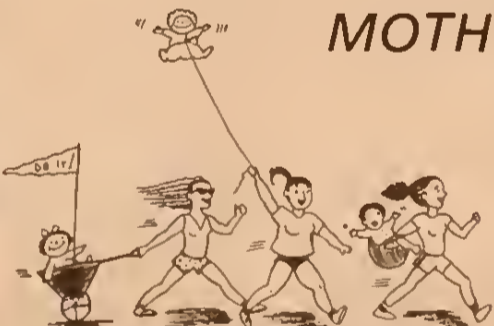
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MORE MOUTHS to feed.

By Laura McHale Holland

Zane Alexander Johnides

When Zane Alexander Johnides came into the world at 6:09 a.m. on April 27, 1992, the 6-pound, 7-ounce boy was welcomed by not two but three parents—his birth mother, and his adoptive mom and dad.

"It was a wonderful experience," says Steven Johnides. He and his wife, Malaney Wood, drove through the night to witness the birth at Goleta Valley Hospital in Santa Barbara. "I cut the cord, and it was as close to the way it would have been if he wasn't adopted."

Malaney had a terrible cold that morning, but she arrived in time to serve as the birth mother's Lamaze coach. "I was so sick that we breathed incorrectly, and we both fainted right toward the end," she laughs. "But they got us both back up before he came."

At 14 months of age, Zane is vigorous, outgoing, and almost walking on his own. He charms people with his twinkling eyes and distinctive, dimpled smile. And his parents are mesmerized by the unconditional nature of his love.

"I love seeing the wonder and amazement in his eyes, and feeling the trust he has, just by the way he holds onto me," Steven proclaims. "I just know I'm his knight in shining armor. Even as young as he is, he makes me feel that way."

The family's 7-year-old golden retriever, Zachary, is also smitten. He sleeps in Zane's room and tolerantly watches over



Parents Steven Johnides and Malaney Wood, and the family's golden retriever Zachary, 7, are totally smitten with 13-month-old Zane Alexander Johnides. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

the little tyke's explorations.

"He lets Zane climb all over him," says Malaney. "Zane even uses Zach to pull himself up to a standing position. But he hasn't learned to let go yet when Zach starts walking, so he goes for a little ride."

Steven and Malaney fell in love at first

sight 11 years ago in San Francisco. They married just five months later, and lived in lower Pacific Heights until they bought their Valley Street home in 1990. One reason they bought the house was because they planned to start a family.

"When we found out we couldn't have children, we grieved about it for a year

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence or you just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your address and phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait. ☐

or so," recalls Steven. "Then we talked about adopting." A friend told them about Adoption Alternatives, a private adoption agency in Santa Barbara, and within six months they were holding Zane in their arms.

Malaney was initially afraid that a birth mother would be reluctant to select them as parents, since she is 49, and Steve is 41. But Zane's birth mother perceived their maturity as an advantage. "We had everything she wanted for her child—the house, the dog, the grandparents, the whole thing that this child would not have had with her," Malaney says.

Now Steve fills the role of "Mr. Mom" on weekdays, while Malaney works full-time as an insurance underwriter. On nights and weekends, however, Mom wears the childcare hat while Dad tends to his freelance photography business. "It takes a lot of coordination and communication," says Malaney, "but we realize what we would have missed if we hadn't done this."

The couple sometimes dreams of adopting a little brother or sister for Zane, but since the cost of adoption is so prohibitive, they don't know if they'll be able to manage it twice in a lifetime. They haven't ruled out the possibility, though, and they hope their story inspires other would-be adoptive parents.

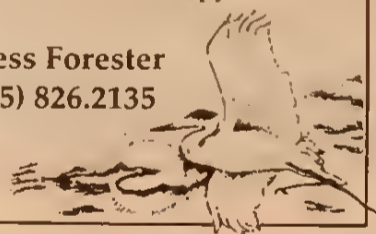
"We're really happy to share our experience with people, to give them hope," says Malaney. "It's a mini-miracle that we have Zane. It can be done." ☐

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Children's Fiction

• In *Fox Outfoxed* by James Marshall, Fox is his usual mischievous self, but through the actions of several others he eventually gets his comeuppance. (Ages 5-8.)

• *Up North at the Cabin*, by Marsba Chell, describes vacation memories from a place in which the narrator truly had the freedom to be her imaginative and expressive self. (Ages 4-8.)

• In *Jim Ugly* by Sid Fleischman, Jake and his ugly but helpful dog go from town to town, searching for Jake's father and the answers to several mysterious questions. (Ages 8-11.)

• Cynthia Rylant's *Missing May*, the most recent winner of the Newbery Medal, shows how 12-year-old Summer reacts to the death of her beloved Aunt May, her uncle's spirituality, and her unusual but kind young neighbor Cletus Underwood. (Ages 10 & up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

• A lively family moves through the day, engaged in activities that start with each letter of the alphabet, in *Alef-Bet; a Hebrew Alphabet Book*, by Michelle Edwards. (Ages 4-6.)

• *Dreamcatcher*, by Audrey Osofsky, illustrates several elements of Ojibway life, including the use of a handmade "dream net" that allows pleasant dreams but not scary dreams to reach a sleeping child. (Ages 5-7.)



• MORE Books to Read •

Librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small invite you to check out the new books available at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. The branch is open Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. (695-5095).

• *Hoang-Anh; A Vietnamese-American Boy*, by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith, describes and depicts the life of a middle school student who lived his early years in Vietnam, but who now makes his home in California. (Ages 8-11.)

• In Joanna Cole's *Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor*, Miss Frizzle and her class go on a field trip in the ocean, exploring geologic strata, underwater flora and fauna, and a variety of other things. (Ages 6-9.)

Adult Fiction

• *A River Sutra*, by Gita Mehta, reflects the scope, power, and complexity of India—through the stories of citizens from all walks of life.

• The main character of Linda Barnes' novel *Snapshot* is Carlotta Carlyle, a Boston private investigator who receives eerie photographs of a dead child in the mail.

• *Vindication*, by Francis Sherwood, is a work of historical fiction that captures the tormented and fascinating life of 18th-century feminist Mary Wollstonecraft.

Adult Non-Fiction

• Covering Hugh Hefner, Rosa Parks, and the Eisenhower administration, David Halberstam depicts the significant, as well as the trivial, from the "forgotten" decade of *The Fifties*.

• *Judy Garland, the Secret Life of an American Legend*, is the latest scandal-packed biography of the famous singer.

• Mary Oliver's *New and Selected Poems*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry, contains 30 of her newest poems, along with selections from her eight previous books.

• Featuring the most up-to-date nutritional and scientific information, *The New Fit or Fat*, by Covert Bailey, is a step-by-step guide to exercise, physical fitness, and ideal body weight.

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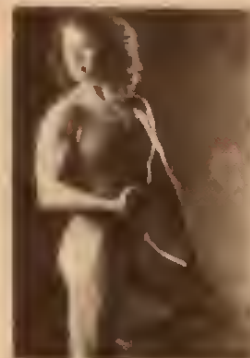
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By LORI CARSTENS



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During Sunday Worship - July & August

Cantate: a Service of Chants and Prayer
Every Second Sunday at 7 p.m. (July 11, Aug. 8)

Prayer Circle: Shared Silence and Prayers
Every Fourth Sunday at 5 p.m. (July 25, Aug 22)

Women's Justice and Spirituality Gathering
Sunday at 7 p.m. - call Selisse at 550-7796 for dates

Psychic Horizons

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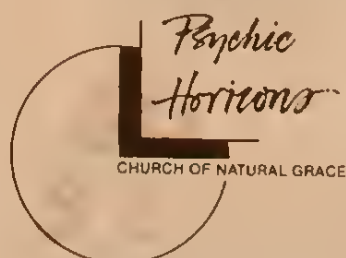
Sat. July 24

Sat. Aug. 28

Sat. Sept. 25

2:00 to 4:00 pm

Noe Valley Ministry
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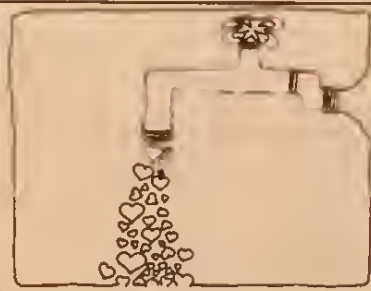
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CLEANINGHOUSE. Home, office, apartment and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513. References.

POETRY WANTED. The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poetry related to neighborhood themes, people, or places. Payment upon publication. Send submissions with SASE (and a phone number, please) to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from a previous issue. (But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.)

Recession Discount: The Voice comes out 10 times a year—we don't publish in January and August. If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. Just deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

To get your ad in the September 1993 issue, which will hit the streets Sept. 1, please mail your ad, and a check payable to the Noe Valley Voice, so that we receive it by Aug. 15, 1993. Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone or drop-in orders.

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CALENDAR

JULY 1-25: The Marsh presents "Keith Haring's My Idol," live ONE-ACT PLAYS by Larry Myers. Thurs.-Sun., 8:30 pm; no performance July 4. 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235

JULY 1-31: Galeria de la Raza continues "La Moda," an EXHIBIT on fashion and its connection to gender, race, and identity. Tues.-Sat., noon-6 pm. 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

JULY 2 & 3: Community Music Center holds new student REGISTRATION for the summer session. Fri., 3-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

JULY 2 & 3: Oebora Hay and FOOTWORK workshop participants perform "Lamb at the Altar." 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: A \$250 prize is awarded in every game at St. Paul's Friday 8INGO. 6 pm. Church auditorium, 221 Valley St. 550-9127.

JULY 3, 4 & AUG. 7: The S.F. MIME TROUPE performs its new musical play *Offshore*. 2 pm. Mission Dolores Park, Dolores & 19th. 285-1717



Allie Light's bout with depression was the inspiration for her film with Irving Saraf, *Dialogues with Madwomen*, showing July 16 at the Castro. PHOTO BY JIM BLOCK

JULY 5: Vintage STREETCARS go rolling on the J-line, making regular Muni stops 10 am-5:30 pm. 552-3055

JULY 5-9 & 26-30: The Randall Museum offers art and science CAMPS for children Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

JULY 6: Intersection for the Arts presents a reading by novelist and poet DENIS JOHNSON. 8 pm. S.F. Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St. 626-2787

JULY 6-27: "Going to the Movies to Find God" is a Tuesday-night FILM DISCUSSION series, sponsored by the Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministry. 7 pm. 152 Church St. Call 553-4026 for required preregistration.

JULY 7: Small Press Traffic sponsors a reading by Oddie Bellamy's PRDSE workshop. 8 pm. 3599 24th St. 285-8394

JULY 7 & 14: The Marsh presents 8UNJARANG (gypsy-color-jam), dance and music from ancient to modern. 8:30 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235



Pan Ramajay is live steel drum masters playing jazz, world, and new acoustic music in the Noe Valley Music Series on July 17.

JULY 8: The 7:30 pm meeting of FRIENDS of Noe Valley features a discussion of health and exercise. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 863-5563

JULY 9: Bolinas-scene POET Duncan McNaughton and *Notus* editor Orew Gardener give readings. 8 pm. Small Press Traffic, 3599 24th St. 285-8394

JULY 9 & 10: E. Brizee and Tom Shaw perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's VOCAL OPERETTA *Tell Me on a Sunday*. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

JULY 9 & AUG. 14: Aldush and the Human Exchange mix PERSIAN FOLK and classical music with Sufi poetry and American jazz. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

JULY 10: The S.F. Gay Men's Chorus performs "Dur Gay Legacy," a CONCERT at Oakes Symphony Hall. 8 pm. Van Ness & Grove. 863-4472.

JULY 10: A quintet of percussionists is featured in Keith Terry's CRDSSFIRE. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

JULY 10: Pets & Pals, a volunteer humane agency, hosts a CAT ADOPTION fair in front of Old Wives' Tales. 1-5 pm. 1009 Valencia St. 821-4676.

JULY 10: Cate Du Nord presents music from the BIG BANO ERA in "The Swing Series." 8 pm. Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St. 861-7374

JULY 10-AUG. 1: The S.F. Mime Troupe's SECONO STAGE performs *Knocked Up*, a show by and for teenagers. 2 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 296-9859

JULY 11 & AUG. 8: The Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JULY 11-AUG. 13: Wayne Wright curates a GROUP EXHIBITION, "Heavy Metal/Punk/Barbarian." Mon.-Sat., noon-5 pm; reception July 11, 2-4 pm. Gallery Sanchez, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

JULY 12: The Diamond Senior Center holds its monthly DANCE PARTY. Noon-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

JULY 13 & 20; AUG. 3, 17 & 24: The Noe Valley Library hosts preschool STORY TIME at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 14: Doug Dowd discusses his new BOOK, *U.S. Capitalist Development Since 1776: Of, By, and For Which People?* 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

JULY 14, 21 & 28: The Noe Valley Library offers infant and toddler LAPSITS at 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

JULY 15: Judy Stone's "Business of Craft" WORKSHOPS continue with an examination of retail markets for crafts. 6:30-9:30 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 431-1180.

JULY 15-29: The 13th annual JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL showcases 31 films from 10 countries and features guest appearances by filmmakers. Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. Call (510) 548-0556 for schedule.

JULY 16: Allie Light and Irving Saraf show their DOCUMENTARY *Dialogues with Madwomen*. 7:30 pm, at the Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. 552-3456.

JULY 17: Pan Ramajay, a band specializing in Caribbean jazz, plays at the Noe Valley Music Series. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

JULY 17: Shop 24th Street for bargains at a SIDEWALK SALE sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. 10 am-5 pm.

JULY 19: Dennis Tedlock reads from *Breath on the Mirror*, *Mythic Voices* and *Visions of the Living MAYA*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

JULY 20: The WORDS AND MUSIC series at Small Press Traffic spotlights Tory Miller and Shutting Into. 8 pm. 3599 24th St. 285-8394.

JULY 21: The guest speaker at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting will be newly appointed S.F. Supervisor SUSAN LEAL. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-0549

JULY 21: The Noe Valley Library screens FILMS on women artists: *Quilts in Women's Lives*, *World of Light*, *A Portrait of May Sarton*, and *Love It Like a Fool*, about Malvina Reynolds. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 22: JANIS JOPLIN, Otis Redding, and Jefferson Airplane star in the concert film *Monterey Pop*. Noon. Main Library, Civic Center. 557-4489

JULY 22: Z. Rudapest discusses *The GOODESS in the Office*, a spiritual energy guide. 8 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4676.

JULY 22: UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS' July meeting includes a SAFE group get-together at 7 pm, followed by a discussion of a proposal for a homeless shelter on Church Street at 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Oay & Sanchez. 641-5989.

JULY 1993



The San Francisco Mime Troupe will perform its incisive new musical, *Offshore*, in city parks starting July 3. PHOTO BY JILLEN OORAN

JULY 24: Language movement pioneer Charles Bernstein reads at a POETRY AND PROSE series. 3 pm. Small Press Traffic, 3599 24th St. 285-8394

AUGUST 1993

AUG. 7: Guitar duo Passion and Grace perform a TRIBUTE to Carlos Montoya. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

AUG. 21: Noe Valley Music presents traditional Armenian and TURKISH MUSIC combined with the jazz fusion of Transition. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

AUG. 23: JON CARROLL and ANNE LAMOTT read from their new works, as part of a "New Words, New Directions" series sponsored by Small Press Traffic. 8 pm. Cowell Theatre, Pier 2, Fort Mason. 285-8394.

ZIPPY

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The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send your calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The *Voice* staff will be on vacation during July, so the next issue will not appear until Wednesday, Sept. 1. We'll be back in the office to receive your September calendar items by the first of August. Be sure to get them in the mail to us by Aug. 15. Thanks. —Ed.